

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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MBFR PROGRESS SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON SALT-II TALKS

LD051509 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Correspondent K. Perevoshohikov dispatch: "Vienna: What Is Hindering Success"]

[Text] Vienna--Every Thursday the participants in the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe gather for a plenary session in the Hofburg Palace's Redoubt Hall. Every Thursday after the session they sparingly inform representatives of the press about its results. Sparingly not so much because the sessions are still confidential as because no substantial progress has been made during them.

The socialist countries' representatives are making more and more new efforts to try to find mutually acceptable solutions. However, their partners do not display a similar desire and take an unrealistic stand. Criticism is being leveled in this connection even in Western countries. Thus, Herbert Wehner, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany faction in the Bundestag, has declared that in Vienna "...they are chiefly engaged in exchanging numerical data and arguing over them" and voiced a wish for the Vienna meetings to "become true negotiations."

Let us note that right from the start the socialist countries gave its proposal about numerical data, reckoning that a rough balance of forces between the two groupings had taken shape in central Europe. But the Western partners unfortunately did not give these proposals proper attention.

What specifically is the argument about?

The Western participants in the talks maintain that the "modification" to their position which they announced on 13 December 1978 meets the socialist countries' proposals half-way and creates a base for mutually acceptable agreement. The essence of this "modification" consists in the promise to make, as its authors say, "a substantial contribution" to a troop reduction by the West European countries and Canada at the second stage of the talks. But if you look more deeply, it turns out that even now the Western partners are not assuming any specific or even approximate commitments with regard to a troop reduction by each of the named Western countries.

The socialist countries believe that, since sovereign states are participating in the talks, each of them must assume specific commitments for a reduction in proportion to the number of troops that it has in central Europe. At the same time it must be guaranteed that no participant in the talks will restore its armed forces and arms to the level that existed before the reduction, much less increase them.

The West insists on establishing so-called ground forces parity, but only on the basis of figures arbitrarily set by itself, and refuses to take into account the socialist countries' official data on their troop strength. However, the West's data are quite unconfirmed and do not tally with reality. "Parity" based on them would mean reduction in armed forces several times greater for the socialist than the Western countries.

Let us recall that on 8 June 1978 the Warsaw Pact states participating in the talks submitted a realistic program for a reduction in armed forces and arms in which they took the Western position into account. Only on terms, however, that would not prejudice the security of either side.

Certain circles in the West are juggling with the idea of linking the attainment of accords in Vienna with the second stage of the Soviet-American talks on limiting strategic offensive arms (SALT II). Of course, the success of the Soviet-American talks can have a positive effect on the detente process in general, thereby contributing to progress at all the other talks in this sphere. But making the Vienna talks dependent on the course of SALT II means erecting one more barrier in their path and artificially complicating an already difficult problem.

TASS INTERVIEWS HUNGARIAN DELEGATE TO VIENNA TALKS

LD011850 Moscow TASS in English 1157 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Vienna, March 1, TASS--The TASS correspondent, Igor Maslov, reports:

Almost nine months ago, participants in the Vienna talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe, the USSR, the GDR, the Polish People's Republic and the CSSR, made an important compromise proposal which contained the main features of a mutually-acceptable agreement. The proposal takes into consideration the wishes of the Western states on key issues of the talks, the head of the delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic to the talks, Ambassador Zoltan Fodor, said in a TASS interview.

This period, he remarked, was quite enough for our Western partners to give a constructive reply. But they have not shown any signs of readiness to date to reply to the exceptionally important initiative of the socialist countries.

The Western countries want to gain time for the implementation of their plans, adopted last year and envisaging a numerical and qualitative build-up of their armed forces so as to hold talks from positions of force afterwards.

With the object of obtaining unilateral military advantages and stalling the Vienna dialogue, the head of the delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic went on to say, the Western side seeks to centre the talks around second-rate questions. Thus, it now without the slightest foundation presents the "geographical factor" as the key issue. But it is precisely this factor which has already been fully considered in determining the area of reduction at preparatory consultations in 1973.

The heads of the delegations of the socialist countries have already emphasized more than once in the talks that the geographical factor cannot be discussed only from the viewpoint of proximity and remoteness of the USSR and the United States from the areas of reduction. The Western delegations do not take into consideration a whole series of factors.

The most important of them are the following: possibilities of increasing the numerical strength of the NATO member-countries located directly in the reduction area in case of a crisis or military conflict; possibilities of using in central Europe the armed forces of other European NATO member-countries; possibilities of the United States to strengthen its troops in central Europe.

Instead of insisting on a discussion of second-rate questions, the West ought to reply to the specific proposals of the socialist countries. The drafting of the first specific decisions at our talks, which peaceable world opinion is looking forward to, depends on this, Zoltan Fodor stressed.

HELSINKI CONFERENCE OF SOLIDARITY WITH VIETNAM TO CONVENE

WFTU Secretary on Conference Goals

ID040844 Moscow TASS in English 0729 GMT 4 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Moscow, March 4, TASS--An international conference of solidarity with Vietnam has been scheduled to be held in Helsinki on March 6-8. As a correspondent of the newspaper TRUD in Prague was told by Secretary General of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) Enrique Pastorino, China's aggression against Vietnam has made it urgently necessary to start a broad and powerful movement of solidarity with the heroic Vietnamese people. This aim will be served by the international conference in Helsinki convened on the initiative of the World Peace Council. It will be attended by organizations of different trends, including the WFTU.

A meeting of eight major international democratic organizations was held in Prague the other day on the initiative of the WFTU Secretariat, Enrique Pastorino said. They reached agreement on joint solidarity actions. The point at issue is above all a world-wide campaign for collecting funds for aid to the Vietnamese people. It has been decided to hold powerful demonstrations demanding immediate withdrawal of all Chinese troops from Vietnam's territory.

On its part, Enrique Pastorino said, the WFTU strives to mobilize the international trade union movement in support of the SRV. The federation has, in particular, addressed the United Nations Organization demanding immediate actions to stop the aggression. We welcome the Soviet Union's firm and resolute stand on Beijing's aggression. This stand has been reaffirmed by Leonid Brezhnev in his speech at an election meeting in Moscow, the WFTU secretary general said. "It is known what great role was played by the international movement of solidarity in ensuring Vietnam's victory over U.S. imperialism. The movement can give effective aid to the SRV this time again," Enrique Pastorino pointed out.

Shitikov-Led Delegation To Attend

ID051304 Moscow TASS in English 1245 GMT 5 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Moscow, March 5, TASS---Delegation of Soviet public led by Chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet Aleksey Shitikov has left for Finland to attend an emergency international conference in support of Vietnam. The conference scheduled to open in Helsinki on March 6 has been convened on the initiative of the World Peace Council and other international democratic organizations. It is to be attended by representatives of wide circles of world public of all continents. The delegates to the conference will discuss urgent measures for further developing the international movement of solidarity with the Vietnamese people in its struggle against the Chinese aggressors.

SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION CONVENED ON RHODESIA

ID031438 Moscow TASS in English 1108 GMT 3 Mar 79 ID

["Meeting of the U.N. Security Council"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, March 3, TASS--A meeting of the Security Council was urgently convened on March 2 at the request of the group of African states at the United Nation's Organization in connection with the stepped up aggressive armed actions against the independent African states by the Salisbury racist regime.

Opening the debate, chairman of the group of African countries Almaheyu Seifu (Ethiopia) stressed that the unlawful Smith regime, challenging the international community, relies on open support of the South African racialists as well as on overt and covert support by influential economic and military circles of the West.

Almaheyu Seifu called on the Security Council for condemning the so-called "general elections" staged by Smith and declaring their results null and void. The plans of the United States and Britain to send their observers to these elections, he said, pursued the aim of giving a semblance of legality and international approval of this gimmick of the racialists, in order to use it then as a pretext for the final refusal to observe the U.N. sanctions against the Rhodesian regime.

Kallistus Ndlovu, a representative of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, spoke on the successes of the fighters for the freedom of their people. Having lost control over a larger part of the country's territory, the Smith regime has recourse to desperate acts of aggression against defenceless civilian population of Angola, Mozambique, Botswana and Zambia. The Western powers backing the minority regimes in Rhodesia and South African Republic must bear responsibility for these bloody actions by Smith, Kallistus Ndlovu stressed.

The Smith regime relying on Western support feels now so safe that it has started broadening the area of the conflict by drawing into it independent sovereign states of the continent, said Elisio di Figueiredo, Angola's permanent representative to the United Nations Organisation.

The West is surprised, he went on to say, that in our part of the world confidence in the Western powers is so low that the Africans are rejecting the former's proposal on a peaceful settlement of the conflict and are resolved to wage an armed struggle. This happens because the Africans have never been offered proposals on a "settlement through negotiations" that would not be a betrayal of the interests of the Africans and that would provide for the granting of genuine independence to them. Representatives of Cuba, Zambia and Portugal also condemned the crimes of the Salisbury regime and expressed solidarity with the African peoples. The Security Council is to continue the debate on this issue on Monday.

VIENNA CONFERENCE ON EAST-WEST COOPERATION OPENS

LD052122 Moscow TASS in English 2046 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

["In the Interests of International Cooperation"--TASS headline]

[Text] Vienna, March 5, TASS--An international economic conference opened today at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. Its theme is "Future East-West Cooperation: 1979-1985" and it is attended by prominent representatives of business circles from 14 countries and various international organisations. Participants in the forum will discuss the further development of cooperation among countries with different social systems in the fields of energy, commerce, science, technology and transport.

Conference delegates were welcomed by the federal chancellor of Austria, Bruno Kreisky, who stressed the imperative need to ensure progress for the detente process and the importance of developing all-round cooperation between states with different systems.

The deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, Dzhermen Gvishiani, stated in his speech that the present meeting at Vienna will have to elaborate new initiatives in an atmosphere that would take into account the qualitative changes that have taken place since the first conference of this kind held in the Austrian capital in 1974.

CARTER TO VISIT MIDEAST TO SAVE TALKS FROM TOTAL FAILURE

LD052036 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1945 GMT 5 Mar 79 ID

[Text] U.S. President Carter, in an attempt to save the Egyptian-Israeli separate talks from total failure, has decided to head the shuttle-diplomacy in the Near East in person. As the White House announced, the President will leave for Cairo on Wednesday, where he will hold talks with President as-Sadat of Egypt. On Sunday he will visit Israel for discussions with Prime Minister Begin. [Moscow TASS in English at 2135 GMT on 5 March adds: "Local commentators underline that this is the 'last desperate attempt' by the U.S. to organize a new Camp David conference between Begin and As-Sadat, and get a separate treaty signed."]

ZORIN RAPS U.S. MEDIA REPORTS ON SOVIET ATTITUDE

LD040606 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 3 Feb 79 ID

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] When agreements were reached at the first Camp David summit they were presented to the American public as the apex of diplomacy. The media hailed President Carter as the man who had cut the Middle East Gordian knot. The fact that months later the administration is trying to break a deadlock and get a peace treaty signed between Israel and Egypt suggests that the crowing over the Camp David summit was overdone to say the least. Soon after that Summit I happened to be in the offices of an American newspaper and was questioned about the Soviet attitude. Why did Moscow criticize the Camp David agreements? Didn't the Soviet Union want to put out the flames of war in the Middle East? The American newsmen saw two reasons for the Soviet attitude. They claimed the Soviet Union wanted tension in the Middle East and therefore was displeased that the conflict might end. They also thought the Soviet Union was piqued that it had been allowed no part in the settlement.

These two arguments still appear in the American media. It's true the Soviet Union was displeased not to be drawn into the process of reaching a settlement but it was not a case of injured national pride as the American media tried to depict it. The Soviet Union believed and still believes this is not the way to adjust a major international issue. I wonder how the United States would feel if the Soviet Union tried to settle the Middle East crisis behind the back of the United States and held something similar to the Camp David summit. The United States too would probably not be so much offended as concerned for its national interests and hence anything but pleased.

An important feature of the Middle East crisis is that it affects not only the interests of the countries in that area but also the interests of the United States and the Soviet Union. This explains why the United States and the Soviet Union became cochairmen of the Geneva conference, a conference designed to settle the Middle East conflict. It is impossible to settle the conflict without the participation of the Soviet Union. All attempts to do so are unrealistic. They cannot guarantee lasting peace in the Middle East. Consequently it is too much to hope that those interested in lasting peace will support such attempts.

Now about the claim that the Soviet Union wants tension in the Middle East to continue. This is sheer nonsense. The Soviet Union has made it more than clear that it wants a steady decline in world tension and, if this is to be, the seat of war in the Middle East must be wiped out.

What prompted the Soviet Union's skepticism about the Camp David agreements during those days of euphoria was the realization the agreements were built on shifting sand. World politics and diplomacy would be simple if all they required was good intentions, if it were enough for a few national leaders to get together, do some bargaining and then shake hands all around. Unfortunately, it takes much more to settle international problems. It takes a sober appraisal of political realities and a search for genuine solutions, not simply easy solutions. The Camp David summit did neither. Hence the Soviet Union saw no reason to join the optimistic (?chorling) and time has shown that those that did showed a lack of political experience.

When I had the conversation with American newsmen that I mentioned at the beginning, there was some excuse for illusions. Since then grim facts should have dispelled them. The Middle East problem is as far from solution as it was at the time of the Camp David summit. Developments have shown that Moscow's initial appraisal of the agreement was a sober one, but I have noticed that none of the men who questioned me in that editorial office have found the courage to admit their mistake. Basing assessments of a political crisis on wishful thinking appears to be a practice of some Washington officials. A recent example is the attempt to play the China card. This attempt ignores the balance of strength in the world and the long-term international problems. It is a gamble founded on political illusions. The handshakes and smiles bestowed on Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping in Washington neither increase the strength of China nor reduce the economic and military strength of the Soviet Union. American-Chinese embraces do nothing whatever to reinforce the security of the United States. On the other hand, attempts to threaten the Soviet Union with a Washington-Peking alliance lessen international trust and worsen American-Soviet relations and hence are not in the national interest of either America or the Soviet Union.

MEDIA DENOUNCE PENTAGON CLAIM TO MIDEAST GENDARME ROLE

LD051317 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 79 p 5 ID

[TASS report: "Laying Claim to the Role of Gendarme"]

[Text] 27 February--The threatening statements by U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown and Energy Secretary J. Schlesinger about their intention to insure U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf zone and "use its military power" in this region on the pretext of defending U.S. "vital interests" are assessed by the Arab and West European press as an open claim by the Pentagon to the role of Near East gendarme.

Before the collapse of the shah's regime in Iran, this role was played by the Iranian Army, armed to the teeth by the United States and led by tens of thousands of U.S. military advisers.

In a television interview the energy secretary stated that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf "must include the stationing of servicemen there. Whether it will provide for the deployment of troops," he added, "is another question."

Evidently guided by definite considerations, the defense secretary expressed himself far more obscurely. "I would obviously be making a mistake," H. Brown said, "if I were to begin to develop specific ideas now in public. We will discuss and are already discussing with the countries of this region the question of what sort of U.S. presence might be most expedient.... I evidently do not need to express myself in more detail on this score."

But it is clear from U.S. press comments that this involves quite specific U.S. attempts to acquire new military and naval bases in the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf, to impose on the countries of this region agreements on U.S. arms deliveries and the introduction of U.S. military advisers and specialists, and to increase the number of U.S. Navy ships in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf.

The New York TIMES Pentagon correspondent notes today that during H. Brown's recent visit to the Near East the "temporary stay" of U.S. military aircraft in countries in the region, the dispatch of U.S. landing craft to the region, and "more efficient use" of the U.S. military base in Bahrain was discussed.

According to the New York TIMES, a Pentagon staffer has examined the question of creating a new U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia, but the Saudi Government "rapidly rejected this U.S. official representative said: "While they have only U.S. weapons Saudi Arabia can still enjoy some degree of autonomy in its actions. But if there are U.S. Armed Forces on their territory their freedom of action will be limited."

The Arab East has not yet forgotten the threats of H. Kissinger who, as secretary of state, called in 1974 for the occupation of Arab oilfields in the event of new rises in oil prices. At the time the Arab countries indignantly rejected this blackmail. More or less the same thing is being repeated today. Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani stated on 26 February that Saudi Arabia and the other Persian Gulf countries "do not need such military aid."

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah was even more categorical. He stressed that the U.S. position contradicts UN principles and the nation's right to freedom. He stated that such methods are "unacceptable and irresponsible."

"The time when certain powers resorted to such means," he said, "is long past. The law of the jungle no longer applies, since the peoples now know how to defend their interests."

U.S. PLANNING MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN MIDDLE EAST

LD041737 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1015 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] New York, 4 Mar, TASS--Striving at all costs to retain its shaken positions in the Near East and the Persian Gulf region, the United States is hatching plans for direct military interference in this region. According to the journal BUSINESS WEEK, the administration, "alarmed by the course of events in Iran as well as by complications in relations with Saudi Arabia, is planning in particular to build up its naval power in the Indian Ocean." To this end, the National Security Council and the Joint Chiefs of State, the journal notes, have already started examining the concrete possibilities of periodically dispatching special forces of warships with marines and planes onboard to the Persian Gulf and also of forming another strategic group of aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean. This is to augment the four groups forming the U.S. 6th and 7th fleets.

Some of the most bellicose figures in the administration, BUSINESS WEEK goes on to stress, are demanding the establishment of a constant U.S. military presence in the Near East, or, in other words, the dispatching of U.S. troops to this region.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES

For example, the proposal was recently made to deploy U.S. fighter forces at the airfields of Washington's Near Eastern allies.

As BUSINESS WEEK goes on to note, at present the administration is engaged in redistributing \$2.2 billion which was allocated for the Pentagon's additional needs. It is proposed to use this money for the construction of two destroyers and 55 F-16 fighters. In the words of H. Brown, secretary of defense, these additional arms will be used in the Near East "to safeguard the increased military role of the United States in this strategically important region."

In all, \$6.2 billion is to be spent in FY 1980 on military construction of the fleet, part of this going into the construction of a new nuclear aircraft carrier.

U.S. GAS SALES LIMIT A PRETEXT TO PRESERVE HUGE PROFITS

LD021632 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 2 Mar 79 ID

["Manoeuvres of Western Monopolies"--TASS headline]

[Text] (?New York), March 2, TASS--U.S. oil monopolies begin setting limits on sales of petrol and fuel in the USA under the pretext that deliveries of oil from Iran have stopped. Cutting of sales of oil products was announced by such major oil companies as Mobil Oil, Atlantic Richfield, Continental Oil Company, Texaco, Standard Oil Company of Indiana, Sun Oil Company. They closed nearly 2,200 gasoline stations in norther districts of the USA alone.

Such measures were widely used by monopolies during the energy crisis of 1974-1975. The cutting of sales of oil products then resulted in a sharp increase of retail prices of oil and in an unprecedented growth of profits of oil (?tycoons). The events now develop along similar lines. To preserve high profits, oil monopolies try to pass on the economic difficulties to broad masses of the working people. Such measures, undoubtedly, aggravate the situation also in other countries where U.S. multinational oil corporations operate.

At the same time, Western countries take urgent measures to form a single front that would increase pressure on petroleum-extracting countries. Western countries seek to oppose legitimate efforts of petroleum-producing countries to protect their interests in the conditions when the cost of industrial goods imported from Western countries is steadily growing and the U.S. dollar is being devalued.

This is seen from the two-day conference of the leadership of the International Energy Agency (IEA) in the framework of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that ends today in Paris.

At that meeting, the United States suggested to cut oil consumption by Western countries by 3-5 percent and to use other sources of energy [and] raw materials. Observers do not rule out a (?possibility) that the "emergency plan" for redistribution of sources and flows of oil that was worked out in advance by the International Energy Agency under the auspices of the United States can be put into effect. This plan is assessed by petroleum-producing countries as blackmailing of the OPEC countries by the West.

Withdrawal Announcement

[Text] The XINHUA NEWS AGENCY has been authorized by the Chinese Government on 5 March to issue a statement which says that Chinese troops will begin to withdraw from Vietnamese territory on 5 March 1979.

Announcement Scorned

[Excerpts] Our correspondent Leonid Krichevskiy reports from the capital of Vietnam: Hanoi papers have published photographs today of the horrendous destruction carried out by the aggressors in the town of Lang Son.

All this indicates that the scale of China's aggression is growing. This takes away the credibility of those false claims, made for a clearly propagandistic aim, which are being disseminated by Beijing and taken up by a number of capitals, that Chinese troops have allegedly begun withdrawing to the border. This misinformation aims to deceive public opinion, to mask the aggressor's real plans and to cut short the wave of protest sweeping the whole world against the Chinese incursion into Vietnam.

Last night Vietnamese television and radio transmitted the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee's appeal in connection with the Chinese invaders' aggression. The appeal was received with deep satisfaction by the entire Vietnamese people. It was immediately met with extensive support. As soon as the appeal was transmitted over the radio, mass meetings and demonstrations took place in Hanoi and other towns. Their participants swore to do their utmost for the national struggle against the Chinese aggressors.

TASS Comments

["About a NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY statement"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 5, TASS--The NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY disseminated today a statement about the beginning of the withdrawal as of March 5 of "border guard units of China" participating in the aggression against Vietnam, "to within the boundaries of their country."

As is known, on February 17 China perpetrated a bandit attack on Vietnam. On that day more than ten divisions of the Chinese regular army (and not border units, as the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY statement maintains) invaded the land of Vietnam. The Vietnamese people are putting up a heroic resistance to the aggressor. For two and a half weeks Vietnam has been staunchly repelling the continuous attacks of the invaders who, disregarding heavy losses in manpower and materiel, are attempting to penetrate deep into Vietnamese territory.

Beijing's treacherous aggression against Socialist Vietnam has aroused a storm of indignation and protests everywhere in the world. Actually no one dared to openly support the Beijing adventurists.

The sympathy, solidarity and support of all the peoples, those of fraternal socialist countries above all, are entirely on the side of the Vietnamese people struggling for its freedom.

The next few days will show what the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY's statement really means, a statement in which there are many reservations and all kinds of conditions. It is noteworthy that in this statement the Government of China again claims, with unprecedented impudence, "the right to counterattack in self-defence" whenever it deems this necessary.

It is also hard to bypass China's intensified territorial claims to Vietnam. In today's statement, too, the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY confirms that China continues to covet Vietnamese lands.

Finally, it is not clear from the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY's statement how one is to reconcile China's declaration on its intention to begin troop withdrawal with the fact that China stepped up in recent days the transfer of new units and formations of the Chinese Regular Army to the area of fighting as well as to districts directly adjacent to Vietnam and Laos.

There has been so far no information showing that China has actually begun pulling out its troops from Vietnamese territory in accordance with the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY's statement, made on behalf of the Chinese Government. Military actions were continued on March 5.

FURTHER COMMENT ON PRC INVASION OF SRV

Chinese Dragon's 'Insatiable Appetite'

LD051845 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1300 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] China is expanding its aggression against Vietnam. The Beijing rulers are putting more and more infantry, tank and artillery units into the fight. At present, participating in the invasion of Vietnam are over half a million Chinese soldiers--more than there were American land forces during the peak of the U.S. aggression.

Of course, the current Beijing rulers have completely exposed themselves before the world, their sinister, aggressive (?essence), conducted for the sake of their great-power hegemonistic policy. Now everyone sees, points out Leonid Brezhnev, that it is this policy that is at present the most serious threat to world peace. For Asia this is no longer a threat, it is a tragic reality. At present the current Beijing leaders, in the form of aggression in Vietnam, have already started their implementation of the aggressive plans which they have been nurturing for centuries.

Mao Zedong underscored time and again that Asia deserved expenditure so as to be [sentence as heard] to get it. Tin and rubber, oil and bauxite--a very good strategical situation--all this alien wealth attracts the Beijing claimers to world domination. The territorial claims of the Maoists, as is known, include 10.5 million square kms--almost 1 million square kms more than the Chinese territory itself. The Beijing hegemonists are claiming the territories of whole Asian countries, such as Vietnam, Korea, Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Kampuchea and certain regions of India, Afghanistan, the island territories in the South China and East China Seas. In other words, the followers of Mao consider their land to be that on which in the last 200 years Chinese conquerors have set their foot on at any time.

Another interesting thing is that the Chinese dragon has an insatiable appetite which is being frankly instigated by influential imperialist circles.

Western emissaries go to Beijing one after the other offering the aggressor up-to-date weapons (?for its adventures), military hardware and technology. The U.S. finance secretary, Blumenthal, during the very peak of the Chinese invasion against Vietnam, solemnly opened the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. He cynically said that this aggression cannot obstruct the establishment of friendly relations between the United States and China.

It is also obvious that the Chinese leaders would not have dared to launch the invasion of Vietnam if they had not had the agreement and support of the United States [words indistinct] that the American imperialism is intentionally letting the Chinese genie sow death and destruction out of the bottle and in this manner (?to check the determination of all Asian countries to stand up to foreign dictate. In any case, it is obvious that support from the side of the West, which thinks in the colonialist (?categories) of spheres of influence and which gives to Beijing Asia as such a sphere, undoubtedly is pleasing to the Beijing leaders which are acting with more and more brazenness. The growing cooperation between the imperialists and Maoists leads all sober-minded politicians in Asia to the conviction that the struggle against the aggressive policy of Beijing is (?the most) [word indistinct] task of all Asian countries and peoples just as the struggle against the plots of imperialism.

Beijing Leaflet Criticizes PRC Aggression

LD051617 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Kalinin report under general heading: "Deep Indignation"]

[Text] Bangkok, 27 February--The Thai newspaper THE NATION writes that China is playing a game dangerous to the cause of peace. The public and leading circles of the Southeast Asian countries are demanding an end to the aggression and the withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnam. The same demands are also being heard in China itself. An AFP report published in the Singapore newspaper the STRAITS TIMES speaks of the appearance in Beijing of a leaflet condemning the Chinese rulers' aggressive actions. In striking against Vietnam, the authors of the leaflet write, China has struck against its own international reputation, isolating itself from the international community.

Invasion News Censored in PRC

LD031626 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

["Afraid of Their Own People"--TASS headline]

[Text] Beijing, March 3, TASS--The Beijing authorities continue keeping the Chinese people in ignorance about the world-wide campaign of protests against the criminal aggression unleashed by the Chinese leaders in Vietnam two weeks ago. The Chinese press has not published a single of the numerous statements by prominent statesmen, party and public figures of European, Asian, African and Latin American countries, who stigmatised Beijing's expansionist, hegemonic policy. The Chinese leaders are afraid of condemnation of their actions by the Chinese people. They do not dare to inform it about the stand of the Soviet Government, whose statement has not been published in a single Chinese newspaper. At the same time, the official press publishes daily all sorts of slanderous inventions about the socialist countries, is trying to stir up hatred among the Chinese towards other peoples.

'China's Wall of Lies' Scored

LD060947 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[V. Goncharov article: "China's Wall of Lies"]

[Text] "Precisely at the time when the bloody aggression of the Chinese great-power hegemonists was launched on heroic Vietnam, a new campaign of outrageous lies was started in Beijing. It has become the characteristic feature of the Maoists' propaganda operations... [quote marks as received]

The leaders of the present Beijing regime are unabashedly proclaiming the piratic aggression against a neighboring sovereign country to be an "enforced act of defence", some sort of "limited operation" which China will, allegedly, "end voluntarily any day", etc, etc. The professional Beijing liars intend, apparently, to erect a veritable wall of lies. It is characteristic that the Chinese propagandists are trying to build this wall on the foundation of their fable about "Vietnam's threat to China".

It should be noted that Beijing enshrouded in silence its piratic military operations in Vietnam: The Chinese people are practically uninformed about them. Neither do the Beijing leaders inform the international public of their bloody "exploits" in the long-suffering land of Vietnam. And this is understandable for the actions of the Chinese thugs and marauders in the occupied Vietnamese territory have much in common with the outrages of Hitlerite occupiers: Prisoners of war are being killed, the civilian population is being brutally exterminated...

A few days ago Beijing decided to build new structures of lies to cover up its military venture in Vietnam. Chinese envoys fed to some organs of the Western press information about "the PRC's intention to offer to Vietnam to begin peaceful negotiations". This "information" was readily picked up by reactionary newspapers which openly support Beijing's "punitive operation" against Vietnam. They are not put off by the cynical nature of the standard propaganda gimmick of the Maoists that is unprecedented in its brazenness.

It is not accidental that the right-wing bodies of the Western press readily pick up each word of the Beijing adventurists and exert themselves to help them build the wall of lies, for the imperialist circles and the Beijing aggressors have common aims of misleading the world public opinion, of trying to dampen the storm of indignation and protest that rose in the world against the Chinese interventionists. But it is impossible to pass off the aggressors as "peace-makers", another structure of lies aimed to cover up the Maoists' military venture which will inevitably disintegrate.

GDR FOREIGN MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES IN USSR REPORTED

Gromyko, Fischer Luncheon Speeches

LDO21321 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Under the Sign of Friendship and Cooperation"]

[Text] Talks were held in Moscow 28 February between A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and GDR Foreign Minister O. Fischer, who arrived on a visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Questions of further developing fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and the GDR were discussed in the talks, which were held in a friendly, cordial atmosphere. In reviewing topical international problems fundamental attention was paid to questions of insuring peace and stability in international relations and also to the situation in the Far East and Southeast Asia and the coordination of the two countries' foreign policy activity.

On the same day A.A. Gromyko gave a luncheon in honor of O. Fischer, during which speeches were exchanged.

Welcoming the guest, A.A. Gromyko said: This meeting is taking place during a noteworthy period in the life of the GDR people. It will soon be the 30th anniversary of the day when the first German state of workers and peasants was created. This glorious jubilee will be our common festival. At the same time it will be the festival of all the fraternal socialist countries.

The GDR's birth was an event of historic significance. It constituted an important shift in developments not only on German soil but also throughout the European Continent. Since the first days of its existence the GDR has declared its determination fully to implement the Potsdam agreement's provisions and principles and to do everything to insure that the threat of a new war never again issues from German soil.

For three decades GDR foreign policy has faithfully served this noble goal. Life has again confirmed the indisputable truth that peace and socialism are indivisible.

We all know the difficulties the GDR has had to overcome in socialist building. Imperialism has attempted repeatedly to block the creation of a new society in the republic and its consolidation as an independent and sovereign state. These attempts have failed.

Today the GDR is a strong, highly developed state, an integral part of the socialist community and an important outpost of socialism on its western borders. Its borders are invulnerable and inviolable. The guarantee of this is the appropriate treaties, primarily the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Soviet Union and the GDR, and its participation in the Warsaw Pact. And only political lunatics could view the real state of affairs otherwise.

The Soviet people are profoundly satisfied that the 30 years of building socialism in the GDR have been also years of constantly strengthening fraternal friendship and steadily developing cooperation between our countries. The basis of our unity is the international combat alliance between the CPSU and the SED.

Whatever area of our relations we examine, the tangible results of our parties' wise course toward the rapprochement of the USSR and GDR peoples in the interests of peace and socialism are evident everywhere.

This also fully applies to the sphere of international politics, where the USSR and the GDR are collaborating efficiently for the purpose of implementing the principles of peaceful coexistence, preventing a new world war and deepening the relaxation of international tension. Much has been achieved in this direction in previous years, and this is particularly apparent on the European Continent, which has now lived under peaceful skies for one-third of a century.

The important role played by the treaties concluded between socialist states and the FRG and also of the four-power agreement on West Berlin in improving the European political climate is clearly evident after a number of years. These treaty enactments were and remain a main factor in strengthening security in Europe. It is important to insure that attempts are not made to test their durability but that they are observed strictly and absolutely or, in other words, that they are treated with care.

In the current international situation, along with positive processes, manifestations of an opposite nature are unfortunately also occurring. In the world there are still forces pursuing a policy hostile to the interests of detente and peace and attempting to speak the language of crude diktat and to interfere in the internal affairs of other states. Here particular reliance is placed on fueling the arms race and whipping up military hysteria.

Let us take Europe again. It is known that the European Continent more than any other continent is packed with weapons, including nuclear weapons. Nevertheless some politicians are crying out for new varieties of mass destruction weapons to be shipped to the continent from across the ocean. Yesterday they pressed for the deployment of the neutron bomb in Europe. Today they state that they cannot manage without special-purpose missile systems. Tomorrow new demands could appear. They are deliberately confusing people. But the main threat is clear: They want to fuel the arms race and to stockpile even more weapons in Europe. We say outright that only people who see the future merely in terms of tension and confrontation rather than peaceful cooperation, and in terms of inflammation rather than relaxation of the situation, could calculate and act in this manner.

The Soviet Union, like other fraternal socialist countries, rejects such a policy as not according with the peoples' interests and their aspiration to live in peace. We have waged and will continue to wage a persistent struggle to halt the arms race and for disarmament. At the Political Consultative Committee session in Moscow last November the Warsaw Pact states again called for a resolute turn in this matter and for a transition to real disarmament.

Here the socialist countries are ready to take most radical steps. One thing only--unilateral concessions--cannot be expected from them. This also applies to the current Vienna talks. As L.I. Brezhnev stressed, "if the socialist countries embarked on the path of unilateral disarmament they would enable the imperialists to achieve such a desirable position of superior strength that it would be a poor service to peace."

Those figures who entertain illusions that they will succeed in achieving the unilateral disarmament of socialist countries are well out of touch with reality. There will be no such unilateral disarmament.

The international situation has recently become complicated as a result of the aggression mounted by China against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This criminal act has shown the entire world the magnitude of the danger to the peoples inherent in the current Chinese leadership's great-power, hegemonist and profoundly militarist policy.

In mounting aggression the Chinese leadership has undertaken a heavy responsibility to the Vietnamese people and to all the peoples of the world.

The great-power chauvinists from Beijing and those who are now supporting them, directly or indirectly, should not forget that the heroic Vietnamese people cannot be crushed. They are capable of defending their country's freedom and independence. The solidarity of Vietnam's numerous friends and allies and of all peace-loving forces throughout the world is on their side. The same ignominious fate which befell other aggressors who encroached on Vietnamese soil awaits the Chinese aggressors.

Our position is extremely clear and is set forth in the Soviet Government statement: The Beijing leadership must immediately end the aggression against Vietnam before it is too late and must totally clear Vietnam's territory of Chinese troops.

The cause of developing and improving relations with the GDR has always been and remains at the center of the attention of our party, its Central Committee and L.I. Brezhnev himself. We are convinced that the fraternal cooperation between the USSR and the GDR will continue to strengthen, becoming increasingly full-blooded and dynamic and serving socialism and peace.

In his speech in reply C. Fischer said that the accords reached in the Crimea between E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, and L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, concretize the main tasks of the cooperation between our parties and states in implementing the decisions of the 9th SED Congress and 25th CPSU Congress.

Our visit to the land of Lenin, the minister went on to say, is taking place at a time when the international prestige of the Soviet Union and the socialist states closely connected with it is constantly growing. The decisive impulses for the cause of peace, disarmament and social progress emanate from the Soviet Union and its Leninist foreign policy.

The Soviet people are greeting the upcoming USSR Supreme Soviet elections with impressive new labor successes.

For their part the GDR working people and our entire people are devoting all their efforts and abilities to transforming the 30th anniversary of the formation of the GDR into a worthy review of socialism's achievements in German soil. In this respect, the spaceflight of the first GDR pilot-cosmonaut together with his Soviet comrades is an outstanding event of symbolic importance.

The reliable basis of our relations is the friendship cooperation and mutual aid treaty concluded between our countries in October 1975. German-Soviet friendship has been, is and will continue to be the prop or, in other words, doctrine of our state. Being at the junction of the two world systems, our people are reliably fulfilling their combat mission--they always act as the USSR's ally and as part of the community of socialist states.

The Moscow declaration of the Warsaw Pact states' Political Consultative Committee conference clearly indicated the way to lasting peace. It reaffirmed the socialist countries' desire to prevent a return to cold war times and to end the arms race.

A few days ago, the minister declared, the Beijing leaders, blinded by anti-communism and their hegemonic aspirations, embarked on the path of adventurism and perpetrated aggression against Socialist Vietnam. We condemn this impertinent, shameless and at the same time dangerous attack on the peace-loving Vietnamese people. It is the duty of all who cherish peace to stop this aggression. We are fulfilling this duty. E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, recently unambiguously reaffirmed this position of ours.

The luncheon was attended by: N.K. Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; USSR ministers; other officials; the persons accompanying the GDR foreign minister; and H. Ott, GDR ambassador to the USSR.

The luncheon was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Fischer in Riga

LD031412 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Fischer, the GDR minister of foreign affairs, who is in Riga, was received today by Voss, first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee. During a warm and friendly talk, the visitor was acquainted with the work of the Latvian SSR's party and administrative bodies in implementing the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

Fischer visited the memorial museum to the Latvian Red Riflemen and viewed the sights of Riga.

A luncheon was held in honor of the visit of the GDR minister of foreign affairs.

Apparent Communique on Visit

LD051615 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "On Visit to USSR by O. Fischer, member of the SED Central Committee and GDR Foreign Minister"]

[Text] O. Fischer, member of the SED Central Committee and GDR foreign minister, visited the Soviet Union 27 February through 3 March 1979 at the Soviet Government's invitation.

Talks were held between A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and O. Fischer during which questions of bilateral relations and also urgent international problems of mutual interest were discussed in detail.

The sides noted with profound satisfaction that the relations between the Soviet Union and the GDR are continuing to develop successfully in accordance with the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the Ninth SED Congress and also the provisions of the 7 October 1975 friendship, cooperation and mutual aid treaty. The fraternal links between the two states are gaining increasing scope and becoming richer and more full-blooded in every sphere with every passing day.

The peoples of the two countries are preparing to celebrate as their common holiday this year the 30th anniversary of the formation of the GDR--the first-ever worker-peasant state on German soil, the outpost of socialism in Europe.

The motive force of the fraternal friendship between the USSR and GDR peoples is the militant alliance between the CPSU and the SED based on the immutable foundation of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism. In this connection the sides particularly stressed the great importance of the regular meetings and contacts between L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, for determining the cardinal directions of further strengthening the friendship and fruitful cooperation between the USSR and the GDR.

The sides expressed the conviction that the consolidation of the socialist community is one of the main factors in insuring peace and stability in international relations. The USSR and the GDR will continue to contribute actively to further strengthening the socialist community's unity, cohesion and defense might and to insuring still more effective cooperation among the fraternal socialist countries within the framework of the Warsaw Pact and CEMA.

In the examination of international issues attention was focused on the practical implementation of the tasks formulated in the declaration of the Warsaw Pact states' Political Consultative Committee Moscow Conference. Both sides were united in the view that the historic decisions of the Political Consultative Committee Moscow conference represent an important stage in the fraternal socialist countries' joint struggle to consolidate detente and to deliver mankind from the threat of another war. The USSR and the GDR will continue persistently to seek a radical improvement in the world situation and the organization of broad peaceful cooperation among states and to rebuff firmly any attempts by the forces of reaction and militarism to throw international development back to cold war times.

The lack of a real shift in the sphere of military detente is jeopardizing the development of the process of strengthening international security. In this connection the sides again stated their readiness to do everything in their power to solve the most vital problem of our time--that of ending the arms race and disarmament.

The conviction was expressed that the conclusion of a new agreement between the USSR and the United States on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments would be a major step toward strengthening peace and stability in international relations.

The USSR and the GDR believe that the Geneva Disarmament Committee is called upon to make a substantial contribution to the cause of military detente. Since the main danger to peace emanates from the mounting nuclear arms race, the sides advocate that the focal point of the committee's work be in elaborating measures aimed at ending production of all types of nuclear weapons and gradually eliminating stockpiles until they have been completely eliminated.

In the course of an exchange of opinions on European issues the sides advocated the further buildup of comprehensive cooperation and the strengthening of security in Europe in accordance with the understandings reached at the Helsinki conference. The USSR and the GDR advocate the full implementation of all the provisions of the Final Act and condemn any actions running counter to this and impeding further improvement of European political climate.

The sides expressed particular concern at the policy line pursued by certain Western circles of further increasing troops and armaments on the European Continent. They noted the importance of taking urgent measures aimed at lowering the level of military confrontation, consolidating trust and achieving real security in Europe.

The prospects of the talks on reducing armed forces and armaments in central Europe were examined from this viewpoint. The sides are convinced that the proposals submitted 8 June 1978 by the socialist states create favorable preconditions for progress at these talks. It is important that the states participating in the talks adhere strictly to the principle of non detriment to anyone's security and avoid attempts to disrupt in their favor the approximate military equality prevailing in that region.

It was stressed that the strict observance of the socialist countries' treaties with the FRG and also of the four-power agreement on West Berlin which are based on recognition of the territorial political realities of modern Europe is of exceptionally great importance for the peaceful future of the European peoples and the deepening of mutual understanding among them.

The Soviet Union and the GDR resolutely condemn China's aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This criminal attack is an extremely blatant violation of international law and an act of tyranny and violence which creates a serious danger to peace throughout the world. The USSR and the GDR state their total support for the fraternal Vietnamese people in their struggle for their motherland's independence and freedom and demand the immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnam's territory. The entire responsibility for Beijing's continuation of aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and its consequences lies with China's present leadership. The aggressor will be responsible for the consequences.

Noting the great importance of the victory of Kampuchea's patriotic forces for the stabilization of the situation in Southeast Asia, the sides stated their complete solidarity with the Kampuchean people who are engaged in building a peaceful, independent, democratic, nonaligned Kampuchea.

They voiced support for the struggle by the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and southern Africa for liberation and against racism and they condemned the attempts to impose on that region's peoples neocolonialist settlements and setups.

The sides attach great importance to the role of the nonalignment movement in the struggle for peace, the relaxation of international tension and the elimination of colonialism and all forms of imperialist and racial oppression and against the plundering of the young developing states by foreign monopolies.

The USSR and the GDR reaffirm their readiness to maintain and develop relations with Iran on the basis of the principles of equality, good-neighborliness, respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in one another's internal affairs.

The talks, which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, demonstrated the complete unity of the sides' views on all the questions discussed and their unanimous desire to strengthen the fraternal inviolable friendship between the USSR and the GDR.

On behalf of the GDR party and state leadership O. Fischer invited A.A. Gromyko to pay an official visit to the GDR. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

TANJUG: BREZHNEV TELLS NEWSMAN: 'WE SHALL NOT FIGHT'

LD042034 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1649 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow--Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, voted today at the elections for the Supreme Soviet, together with 165 million citizens of the Soviet Union. When he appeared at about 1000 at the polling station in Kutuzovskiy Prospekt, where he has been living for years, he was greeted by foreign journalists accredited in Moscow.

After voting together with his wife, Viktoriya, foreign journalists asked Brezhnev, among other things, what he thought of the present international situation, bearing in mind also the latest world hotbeds. He replied:

We shall not fight...

One of the questions was: When will the new Soviet-American agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms be signed?

The moment Gromyko and Vance finish their work, Leonid Brezhnev replied. In his reelection speech in the Kremlin on Friday Brezhnev said that this would take place soon and that SALT-II would be signed during his forthcoming meeting with President Carter.

The journalists then asked Brezhnev how long, in his view, would the Chinese military action in Vietnam last:

Ask the Chinese that, he replied.

The last question--whether world peace would be established and preserved--was answered by his wife Viktoriya:

Yes, there must be peace.

With this the brief meeting between Brezhnev and the group of foreign reporters ended. In the meantime, at the other end of Moscow, in the Bauman constituency the voters voted for Leonid Brezhnev who had been put forward as a candidate for the new composition of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

YUGOSLAVIA SHARPLY INCREASES TRADE WITH CHINA

LD060028 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Viktor Levin]

[Text] Here is a report from Belgrade: According to a TANJUG agency report, the volume of Yugoslav-Chinese trade this year will grow sharply. A trade protocol for the current year envisages an increase in the reciprocal supply of goods totaling \$420 million. Last year the trade turnover stood at \$117 million, that is, some three and a half times less. Last week in Beijing the first meeting of the Chinese-Yugoslav economic cooperation commission was held.

HUNGARY'S KADAR ARRIVES IN MOSCOW, MET BY BREZHNEV

LD051646 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, arrived in Moscow today for a friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. At Belorusskiy terminal station, decked out in the state flags of the Hungarian People's Republic and the USSR, Janos Kadar was met by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Comrade Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrades Blatov and Falin, members of the Central Auditing Commission of the CPSU; and other officials. Among those in the welcoming party was Comrade Szuros, the Hungarian ambassador to the USSR.

USSR-CZECH-SLOVAK CULTURAL PROTOCOL SIGNED IN MOSCOW

LD021228 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A protocol on cooperation for 1979 between the USSR Ministry of Culture and the ministries of culture of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Slovak Socialist Republic was signed in Moscow today. It foresees the exchanges of creative kollektivs, individual performers, delegations and those active in the arts, and the development of the links between theatres, museums, libraries and educational establishments of the fraternal countries.

U.S. RADIO STATIONS SET UP IN NORWAY FOR ESPIONAGE PURPOSES

LD032313 Moscow in Finnish to Finland 1630 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Anatoliy Antonov commentary]

[Text] The (?world's) [word indistinct] research institute in Oslo published a report a few days ago saying that military radio monitoring stations have been set up on Norwegian territory, mainly in the country's north, and are being used by the United States for espionage purposes. Our observer Anatoliy Antonov writes:

The information given by the Norwegian institute that the United States is using Norway as an important center of the radio industry directed against the USSR is, despite some kind of sensationalism, only a further stroke in the general picture of drawing Norway into NATO's transatlantic leaders' anti-Soviet strategy. The setting up of such military targets close to the Soviet border on Norwegian territory and their operations are in direct conflict with Norway's policy, which bans foreign bases on the country's territory in peacetime. All kinds of facts are also known about the use of Norwegian territory for the Pentagon. Two years ago Norwegians were downright shocked when the true role of the assumed [word indistinct] nature of Loran (?C) and Omega radio navigation systems was uncovered. Officially their task was to render assistance to fishing boats in locating their position. In reality those stations (?guaranteed) the operations of American submarines, i.e., in directing missiles toward targets in the USSR.

It is clear that this has nothing to do with Norway's defense, but functions fully as a means of American [word indistinct] intimidation strategy. [Words indistinct] nothing to do with the American electronic espionage case. The espionage stations in Norway in fact serve the interests of the American strategy. In the end, Norway is not the only NATO country, [word indistinct] outside that bloc either [remainder of sentence indistinct]. It is well known that American radio espionage stations are to be found in several countries situated close to the Soviet border. It may be noted in this connection that the electronic espionage stations will be removed from Iranian territory after the overthrow of the shah's regime as already announced by the new Government of Iran. Participation in NATO makes Norway willingly or unwillingly a participant in that bloc's anti-Soviet strategy, mainly determined by the Pentagon. It is precisely this strategy that is expressed in numerous NATO military exercises on Norwegian territory close to the Soviet border and [word indistinct] heavy arms on its territory and in (?forming) American submarines' navigation stations, and now in addition radio intelligence against the USSR. It is clear that all that is necessary for the Pentagon hawks but it is far removed from Norway's real interests.

FRG PREPARED TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER BREZHNEV PROPOSALS

LD052024 Moscow TASS in English 2001 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Bonn, March 5, TASS--Klaus Boelling, an official spokesman of the FRG Government, told pressmen in Bonn today that the Federal Government is prepared to give a serious consideration to the foreign policy proposals voiced by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev in his speech before the electors on March 2 this year.

As the DDP news agency reported in this connection that Klaus Boelling had in view "the proposals for concluding a non-aggression pact between participants in the European conference in Helsinki as well as proposals under which the Soviet Union is prepared for a start to withdraw in the course of a year 30,000 men and military personnel from central European and a considerable amount of military equipment, including a thousand tanks."

KOMMUNIST REVIEWS CUNHAL BOOK 'PAGES OF STRUGGLE'

LD051848 Moscow TASS in English 1736 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 5, TASS--KOMMUNIST, journal of the CPSU Central Committee, gives a high appraisal of Alvaro Cunhal's book "Pages of Struggle" published in Moscow. The book treats of the history of the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) and the antifascist struggle in Portugal. Alvaro Cunhal, PCP general secretary, writes about the unbelievably difficult and persistent struggle which the Portuguese Communist Party has waged for 48 years against the Salazar-Caetano fascist clique in order to bring nearer the day and hour of the revolution.

"The book," the review points out, "is valuable by the generalization of the experience of the struggle of one of the national detachments of the international communist movement against fascism. In a broader sense, it is valuable by the analysis of the experience of the Portuguese revolution, its peculiarities, motive forces, and the course of development, experience which is in many respects topical and instructive for other fraternal parties as well. Thereby the PCP makes a contribution to the further development of the revolutionary theory--the entire liberation movement's common science of winning in the severe struggle against class enemies."

The journal KOMMUNIST notes the particular topicality of Alvaro Cunhal's words about the great force of proletarian internationalism. "The successes of the PCP in the struggle against fascism, for the building of a democratic society in Portugal, he points out, "are not only the result of the revolutionary struggle of the country's working class. They are inseparable from the successes achieved by the international proletariat, from its triumphs and experience. The Portuguese communists' present prestige and influence, based on the PCP revolutionary activities in the course of a historically long period, have as their source the invariable solidarity among fraternal Marxist-Leninist parties."

"Proletarian internationalism multiplies thousand-fold the strength of the working people in their joint struggle against capital. Therefore reaction uses any means to undermine the unity of the working people's ranks. Reaction's main aim is to draw fraternal parties away from one another and first of all from the CPSU. In reply to that pressure, the Portuguese communists are stating the invariability of their principled stand of friendship with the USSR and other socialist countries, the communist parties of all countries, solidarity with the national liberation movement."

FINNISH COMMUNIST DELEGATION VISITS KARELSKAYA ASSR

LD051125 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Text] Petrozavodsk, 20 February, TASS--A Finnish Communist Party [SKP] delegation consisting of A. Saarinen, chairman of the SKP, (O. Khyanninen), vice chairman of the party; SKP Central Committee Politburo members (O. Pyerkbakk), (M. Kaynulaynen) and (O. Lekhto) and SKP Central Committee members (A. Aytamurto) and (M. Perya) was in the Karelskaya ASSR at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Finnish comrades visited Kostomuksha and inspected the construction of the mining enriching combine being erected with the participation of Finnish firms and workers. A friendship meeting held here was addressed by I.I. Senkin, CPSU Central Committee member and first secretary of the Karelskiy Obkom; A. Saarinen, chairman of the SKP; G.A. Bondarevskiy, a worker at the combine; and M. Viytanen, chief agent of the workers of the Finnstroy joint stock company. They stressed that the erection of the Kostomuksha combine is a clear example of Soviet-Finnish friendship and mutually advantageous cooperation, which has been tirelessly advocated by the CPSU and the SKP.

The SKP delegation left for home today.

FINNISH COMMUNIST PRESS DELEGATIONS VISIT USSR

LDO51127 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "At PRAVDA's Invitation"]

[Text] Delegations of the Finnish Communist Party [SKP] newspapers KANSAN UUTISET and TIEDONANTAJA headed by E. Kauppila and U. Jokinen, members of the SKP Central Committee Politburo and chief editors of those newspapers, visited the Soviet Union 15-22 February at the invitation of the PRAVDA editorial board.

The guests from Finland acquainted themselves with the work of the PRAVDA editorial board, TASS and NOVOSTI, visited the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Space Research, and took a trip to the city of Tolyatti. Warm and friendly conversations took place in the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department and International Department.

The representatives of the SKP press highly assessed the Soviet people's successes in solving the tasks set by the 25th CPSU Congress and stressed the constructive role of the Soviet Union's foreign policy in strengthening peace and the security of the peoples. In the course of the exchange of opinions which took place on the urgent tasks of the communist parties' press, it was noted that the importance of the principles of party-mindedness and a consistently class approach and of a rebuff for all manifestations of anticommunism and anti-Sovietism is increasing in its work under the conditions of the expanding and deepening ideological struggle between the forces of capitalism and socialism.

SOVIET-SPANISH RADIO, TELEVISION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MOSCOW

LDO51648 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The first long-term agreement on cooperation between the USSR and Spain in television and radio broadcasting was signed in Moscow today. It provides for an exchange of television and radio material on the life of the Soviet and Spanish peoples, mutual cooperation in the preparation of programs on the most important events in the USSR and Spain, and the joint shooting of films.

The document was signed by Namedov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and Luis Ezcurra, vice director general of Spanish Radio and Television.

CHERNYAYEV HEADS CPSU DELEGATION TO IRISH CP CONGRESS

LD051337 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "Departure of Delegation"]

[Text] A.S. Chernyayev, member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, and Ye. S. Legutin, CPSU Central Committee International Department executive, have left for Belfast to participate in the routine, 17th Communist Party of Ireland Congress, at the invitation of the Communist Party of Ireland Central Committee.

PRAVDA REPORTS ON PROGRAM ADOPTED BY MALTESE CP CONGRESS

LD051029 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Correspondent V. Drobkov report: "Action Program" under the rubric: "In Fraternal Parties"]

[Text] Valletta, 19 February--The second Maltese Communist Party [MCP] Congress has completed its work. It adopted a party program containing an analysis of the current situation in Malta and outlining the Communist Party's aims and tasks in the struggle to strengthen the republic's national independence, for the working masses' rights and interests and for social progress. The program gives an appraisal of the international situation and notes the importance of continuing the struggle for peace and the relaxation of tension against the forces of imperialism and war.

The ideas of Marxism-Leninism, the MCP program says, exert enormous and constantly increasing influence on mankind. They are embodied in the creative efforts of millions of people building a new life in socialist countries. They have put down deep roots in the developed capitalist countries and are spreading their influence to countries which, like Malta, only recently embarked on the path of social and national liberation. The MCP, the program says, is the politically conscious and organized vanguard of the republic's working people. The aims and tasks which the MCP sets itself are determined by the interests of the working class as formulated by Marx, Engels and Lenin.

The MCP, the document adopted by the second congress notes, is an independent [samostoyatelnyy] detachment of the international communist movement deeply dedicated to proletarian internationalism. The struggle for social progress and socialism in Malta, the program says, is inseparably linked to the common anti-imperialist struggle of the socialist countries and the international workers and national liberation movements. It is also linked to the mighty movement for peace and international security, against war and aggression, and against the imperialist from a position of strength policy.

The program contains criticism of the Beijing leadership's actions. The Chinese leaders' deal with imperialism, it notes, deserves condemnation. Anti-Sovietism, the MCP program stresses, is the imperialists' main weapon and must therefore be rebuffed on all fronts.

The document adopted by the Second MCP Congress proposes a program for the profound social transformations in Malta which the communists advocate. The party advocates united action by the democratic forces. Malta is undergoing the national democratic stage in its development, the program points out. At this stage the party struggles to achieve the necessary anti-imperialist unity and solidarity of all progressive and patriotic forces.

SOVIET MEDIA ON SEPARATE TREATY, CARTER-BEGIN TALKS

First Round of Talks

LD022315 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1433 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Washington, 2 March, TASS--The first round of the new talks between Israeli Prime Minister Begin and U.S. President Jimmy Carter on the conclusion of a separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel has been held in the White House.

In a statement on his arrival in Washington, Begin said that the talks on the Egyptian-Israeli treaty were in "a state of profound crisis" because Israel is being ordered to sign supplements to the treaty which, in his words, contradict the Camp David agreements.

Carter's first meeting with Begin lasted 2 hours. When it had ended, the President's press secretary Jody Powell read out a short statement which said that the meeting had been held "in the most friendly atmosphere" and was "a useful prelude to strenuous talks."

Commenting on this meeting, the American press holds that its aim is to exert certain pressure not only on Egypt but also on Israel to revitalize the deadlocked trilateral Camp David talks at foreign minister level.

The U.S. administration is striving in every way to force through the conclusion of a separate deal. In the opinion of the United States, this would open up the way for the setting up, on the basis of the Israel-Egypt axis, of a proimperialist alliance in the capacity of gendarme for protection of U.S. interests in the region. To this end, in the opinion of local observers, Jimmy Carter intends to put an end to, as he put it, "the insignificant differences" which still stand on the road toward signing a separate peace agreement.

In his last statement, Jimmy Carter explained in the following way the "special relationship" which has taken shape between Washington and Cairo. In his opinion, Iran's departure from the umbrella of U.S. influence "intensifies Egypt's significance as a stabilizing factor in the Arab world. Iran can no longer be considered to be the gendarme of that region." "I think," he added, "that Egypt with its multimillion population and with its very large armed forces would to a far greater degree be a potential stabilizing factor."

Tel Aviv's displeasure at such a change in the U.S. position was manifested in Begin's refusal to take part in the Camp David talks and the arguments that Khalil is not Begin's equal, as As-Sadat alone decides everything in Egypt. In response, Jimmy Carter invited Begin to visit the United States "for a frank talk." Before enplaning, the Israeli prime minister considered it necessary to stress that Tel Aviv would "resist pressure" but would strive to conclude a "comprehensive peace" with Egypt.

Local observers explain the hardening of Begin's position by Israel's aspiration to take advantage of the difficult foreign-political situation in which the Carter administration now finds itself and to gain by bargaining, through the United States, additional concessions from Egypt. The mounting rivalry between Egypt and Israel for the place of first vassal of the United States in the Near East is also noted.

The press reports that, in addition to the meetings with Jimmy Carter, Begin has also planned a whole round of talks with the leaders of the U.S. Jewish community. This is interpreted here as Tel Aviv's aspiration to resort to the services of the powerful Zionist lobby with a view to forcing the administration to "correct" the U.S. position.

Paris, 2 March, TASS--The newspaper L'AUREOLE writes: "Carter is giving such active support to As-Sadat because the latter is meant to become the bearer of U.S. policy in the Near East."

Carter-Begin Differences

LD032040 Moscow TASS in English 1909 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Washington, March 3, TASS--A second meeting between President of the United States Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Begin was held in the White House. Quoting informed sources, the UPI reports that both meetings had not overcome the impasse that formed recently at the Egyptian-Israeli talks in Camp David. Grim atmosphere reigns in the White House, the UPI reports. Carter and Begin hold different positions, the Washington POST writes today.

Statements of Israeli leaders, including Begin himself, show that the bilateral separate deal was relegated to the background. The bargaining is now about the place that Israel and Egypt will hold in the strategic plans of the White House and the Pentagon.

Before leaving for the United States, Begin emphasized in every way that Israel is the only "stable" ally of the United States in the Middle East. Tel Aviv does not want the strengthening of the positions of Egypt which now offers itself persistently for the role of the United States' gendarme in the Persian Gulf and in the Middle East. Begin declares against Washington's plans to turn Egypt ruled by the As-Sadat regime into a bulwark defending the United States interests in the Middle East. In this Begin relies on those circles in the United States that express the concern that the same lot as that of the Shah of Iran might befall As-Sadat and then U.S. weapons supplied to Egypt will be turned against Israel.

Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Frank Church said yesterday that any plan of the U.S. administration to turn Egypt into a new military power in the Middle East region will be definitely rejected by the Congress. Pointing out that As-Sadat gave to the Pentagon's chief Harold Brown a long list of types of armaments he would like to get in return for Egypt's pledges to perform the functions of the "Middle Eastern gendarme," the Senator expressed the conviction that the funds of many billions of dollars for financing such deliveries of armaments will not be endorsed by the Congress.

Talks Down 'Blind Alley'

LD042019 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

["Vying for Policeman's Role"--TASS headline]

[Excerpt] Washington, March 4, TASS--The third meeting between U.S. President James Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin at the White House failed to overcome the impasse recently developed during the Egyptian-Israeli talks at Camp David. The White House negotiations, writes the Washington POST, evoke deep pessimism. While Carter describes the remaining problem as insignificant, Begin underlines their paramount importance. Officials have admitted, the New York TIMES states, that nothing has happened that could change the dim prospects. The blind alley remains a blind alley.

The press indicates that the matter, now under discussion, is not so much a bilateral separate deal, as what place will be relegated to Israel and Egypt in the United States' strategic plans in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf area.

Following the collapse of the shah's regime in Iran, the United States, as is known, began paying close attention to this area, where it is looking for new stooges to protect American interests. U.S. officials have repeatedly stated of late that they are working for expanding their role in the Middle East.

Both Tel Aviv and Cairo are striving in every way to demonstrate their loyalty to Washington. Begin stressed publicly that Israel is the only "stable" ally of the USA in the Middle East. In his turn, As-Sadat openly offers his police services to America and has already sent to the Pentagon a long list of the types of weapons he is trying to get in exchange for this role.

Talks End, Begin Gives Interviews

LD051615 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1500 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] President Carter and the Israeli prime minister, Menahem Begin, have ended their talks in Washington. Our correspondent there supplies these details:

The two men had full, lengthy talks in the White House. The head of the American administration felt it necessary to intervene personally in a bid to break the deadlock in the Egyptian-Israeli separate talks at Camp David. The talks were interrupted a week ago; Israel refused to make any concessions to Cairo, which has been under a barrage of criticism from Arab countries for its policy of capitulation.

While in the United States Menahem Begin gave press interviews right and left to explain the Israeli position. He kept asserting that Israel was the strongest bulwark of the so-called free world in the Middle East, clearly implying that the Egyptian regime was not reliable enough for the role of an American policeman in the Arab world.

The American press notes that the establishment of the Tel Aviv-Cairo axis has become the crux of the Egyptian-Israeli talks. From the very start the idea of a separate deal contradicted the attainment of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. Now the partners are openly engaged in bargaining for the lead in the proposed Egyptian-Israeli alliance, an alliance into which Washington hopes to draw a number of other Arab countries. Both Tel Aviv and Cairo have been making proposal after proposal aimed at insuring American military presence in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf area. Tel Aviv was promised bases and a harbor in Haifa. Egypt has offered troops, hoping to get the newest weapons in exchange. In fact, President As-Sadat has already presented the Pentagon with a lengthy list.

The Israeli prime minister, speaking in the course of his American visit, came out against Egypt strengthening its military position. His views are supported by those circles in the United States who fear that the As-Sadat regime might suffer the fate of the regime of the Iranian shah with the result that American weapons supplied to Egypt might be turned against Israel. Arguments to this effect were voiced, for instance, by the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Frank Church. At the same time Menahem Begin was assured of the (?full) American support of his country.

The Carter-Begin meetings in the White House are reported to have revealed nothing encouraging but it is being stressed in Washington that the separate talks will continue.

Considering the special relationship between Washington and Tel Aviv, it stands to reason to assume that the Egyptian president will have to make further concessions (? in the end).

The American press feels that the American weapons and credit issues will be used as additional means of pressuring Cairo.

Further Egyptian Concessions Seen

LD052220 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[From "Window on the Arab World" program written by A. Timoshkin]

[Text] U.S. President Carter has completed his lengthy talks with Israeli Prime Minister Begin. According to Washington reports, the U.S. President presented the Israeli prime minister with several proposals on ways of signing a separate treaty with Egypt. No details have been published in this connection. The Israeli Government will discuss President Carter's proposals as soon as possible.

U.S. propaganda says that President Carter's proposals will set in motion the peace issue in the Middle East. But what for? The U.S. President said: to secure the future of Israel under conditions of security and peace. But why only Israel? President Carter said: Because one thing which has not changed throughout the process of establishing peace in the United States' firm loyalty to the question of securing Israel's security--and it will be secured.

What new things could President Carter propose in his talks with the Israeli prime minister? This scenario could stipulate certain formal concessions for the demands made by the Egyptian president in order to give the next separate treaty an acceptable form. In the opinion of the U.S. senator of Arab origin, James Abourezk, President as-Sadat as put himself on a dead-end road. Therefore, in the opinion of many commentators in Arab and even Western papers, the Egyptian president has no alternative but to make further concessions to Israel. In its extreme and stubborn stand, the latter totally relies on its special relations with the United States.

While talks are going on for the signing of a separate treaty, Israel continues to colonize more Arab land and build settlements there, and threatens a new aggression on Lebanon. It is doing all this with impudence and without fear.

Present Situation Suits Begin

LD052020 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program conducted by Anatoliy Doronin]

[Text] Egyptian papers are laying the blame for the failure of the Washington negotiations on Prime Minister Begin of Israel, accusing him of ignoring the regional interests of the United States and the West as a whole. AL-AHRAM, AL-JUMHURIYAH and AL-AKHBAR all write about this. It is paradoxical, but it is a fact; Egypt has started to worry about the West's interests more than Israel. As far as Begin is concerned, a report from Washington says that he is not satisfied with all the concessions that As-Sadat has made. Begin called the draft peace treaty proposed by the Americans for signature "false." It would seem that despite all his talk of peace, the present situation of no peace no war, in which he occupied the dominant position, suits him better.

MOSCOW CITES SAUDI MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD051516 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In a statement he made to the Lebanese weekly magazine AL-HAWADITH, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faysal said: We want to stress that the lack of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union does not mean that we do not recognize the Soviet Union or the important role it plays at the level of international politics. On the contrary, we have more than once expressed thanks for the Soviet Union for its positive position on Arab issues.

The minister touched upon the allegations that the United States may possibly dispatch a few thousand troops to defend eastern Saudi Arabia. He said: We are convinced that the security of the Middle East region is based on noninterference in our domestic affairs and understanding and cooperation between the states of the region. There is no threat to security in the gulf region, including any danger of foreign intervention. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal went on to say that the restoration of peace and stability in the Middle East can only be achieved through the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories, the return of the Arab part of Jerusalem and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination.

Timoshkin Comment on Ties

LD052245 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[From "Window on the Arab World" written by A. Timoshkin]

[Text] Arab and Western newspapers have recently conducted a heated discussion of the question of the possibility of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union being restored. It is worth recalling that such relations existed for 54 years but were then severed under the pressure of British imperialists. The Washington POST, for example, is one of the papers that has commented on the Saudi foreign minister's statement pointing to the possibility of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union. The point in question here is the statement made by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to the Lebanese weekly AL-HAWADITH in which he said that the absence of diplomatic relations does not mean that we do not recognize the Soviet Union or its important role in world politics. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: On the contrary, we have frequently expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its positive attitude toward Arab issues.

This statement is a recognition of the great role the Soviet Union plays in rendering assistance and support to the Arab countries in repulsing Israel's aggression, which is backed by American imperialism. In the view of the weekly Lebanese magazine, the number of people in Saudi ruling circles who are pursuing a policy of nonalignment is on the increase. This is a result of the frank dialog with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

COMMENTARY, REPORTAGE CONTINUES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN

Tudeh Official Interviewed

LD051426 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Prague, March 5, TASS--H. Safari, member of the Executive Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Iran (Tudeh) and secretary of the party's Central Committee, gave an interview to the newspaper RUDE PRAVO, in which he stressed that the Iranian people should enhance their vigilance in face of unceasing intrigues of imperialism and reaction. It would be a great blunder to believe, he said, that U.S. imperialists and reaction have reconciled themselves to the defeat in Iran.

U.S. imperialism, H. Safari continued, is laying emphasis on the policy of strength and diktat, on interference in the internal affairs of other states. However, Iran's experience has again confirmed the fruitlessness of such a policy. The Iranian events were fresh proof of the inconquerability of the national-liberation movement in conditions when the balance of forces in the international arena has changed in favour of socialism, peace and progress. H. Safari reaffirmed the Tudeh Party's support to the Provisional Iranian Government and said that the party came out for a new constitution of free and independent Iran, for the proclamation of a democratic Islamic republic in the country.

Referendum, Draft Constitution Preparation

LD051450 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 5, TASS--Preparations for a referendum on Iran's future state structure are continuing in the country. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has officially confirmed that the referendum would be held on March 30th. At the present time a group of authoritative Iranian lawyers is completing the elaboration of a draft for the country's new constitution.

The government has taken an important foreign policy step by announcing the rupturing of diplomatic relations with the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa. In view of this, Iran will no longer have any political, economic, military and diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa, it was stressed by a spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Iranian press reports show that the internal counterrevolutionary forces, acting with the support of imperialism, have not reconciled themselves to the defeat and have not abandoned their plans to restore the old order in Iran. The newspaper AYANDEGAN has published a report that active functionaries of the shah political police--SAVAK, who have now gone underground, are endeavouring to restore their organization. They are storing up weapons, forming terrorist groups.

Moscow Persian Comment

TA051459 [Editorial Report TA] Moscow in Persian to Iran at 1100 GMT on 5 March in news reports on the situation in Iran notes that the "export of Iranian oil will start as of today. Today in Kharg Island the first large oil tanker, named World Ambassador, will be loaded to take oil to Japan." According to another report, "Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Amir Entezam said in a press conference in Tehran that from now on oil will be exported regularly, and that oil will not be provided to South Africa."

The radio also reports that "the Iranian Government declared that it has cut political ties with the Pretoria regime, and Iran will have no political, military or trade relations with the South African Republic because of its racist policy."

In other news, the radio cites reports from Tehran that in the last 6 nights there were disorders in the capital when SAVAK agents and officers of the Imperial Guard tried to attack the peoples' police and government institutions, but the counterrevolutionaries were crushed after a heavy exchange of fire. The KAYHAN newspaper, in an interview with Ayatollah Taleghani, quoted him as saying that there is still danger of counter-revolutionary uprising in the capital from reactionary sources. It is also reported that security organs of the new regime have crushed counterrevolutionary elements in Mashhad, Tabriz, Esfahan, and Abadan.

The radio reports further that "the U.S. Government, which is trying to strengthen its shaky position at any price in the Near East and the Persian Gulf, is making plans for direct military intervention in this area." It cites BUSINESS WEEK as saying that the United States is alarmed by events in Iran and its deteriorating relationship with Saudi Arabia, and is trying to strengthen its naval forces in the Indian Ocean. A final news item notes that the Saudi foreign minister said in an interview with a Lebanese magazine that we are grateful to the Soviet Union for its positive stand on Arab problems.

Taleghani on Putsch Danger

LD061117 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent A. Filippov report: "Peop on the Alert"]

[Text] Tehran, 4 March--The last 3 nights have been rather disturbed for residents of the capital. Opponents of the new regime--former security service (SAVAK) agents and officers of the shah's guard who have gone underground--tried to carry out a series of attacks on people's police patrols, and also on government institutions. Heavy exchanges of fire took place, during which the counterrevolutionaries were defeated. Reporting on this, the Tehran press notes that the oppositionists [protivnik] are trying in every way to hinder the stabilization of the situation, particularly on the threshold of the forthcoming national referendum on questions of Iran's state and political structure.

The newspaper KAYHAN today publishes a report that Ayatollah Taleghani, the closest collaborator of national leader Ayatollah Khomeyni, said in a talk with journalists that the threat of counterrevolutionary putsches in the capital, on which reaction is gambling, has not yet disappeared. About 8,000 armed agents of the former shah's security service are forming a bloc with CIA agents and waiting for a suitable moment to provoke mass disorders in the capital with a view to creating "grounds" for their masters to intervene in Iran's internal affairs. "The country is on the alert," he stressed.

It is reported that the new regime's organs for maintaining order have rendered harmless various kinds of counterrevolutionary gangs operating in Mashad, Esfahan, Tabriz and Abadan.

FORMER CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF CONDEMNS EGYPTIAN REGIME

LD041341 Moscow TASS in English 0910 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 4, TASS--Ash-Shazli, former chief of General Staff of the Egyptian Army, strongly criticized the home and foreign policy of the present ARE leadership. Speaking in an interview with a correspondent of the Libian JANA agency, he said that this policy will bring Egypt "neither peace nor economic progress". Ash-Shazli, who is now in exile, but was once one of the companions-in-arms of late President G.A. Nasir, has condemned the line of the Cairo authorities, which, as he said, are acting in concert with Israel, the South African Republic and other reactionary and racist regimes.

EGYPTIAN OWNERS FAIL TO PROVIDE SOCIAL BENEFITS

LD031542 Moscow TASS in English 1400 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 3, TASS--Cairo's policy of encouraging the private sectors has resulted in a considerable intensification of the exploitation of the working people. This is evidenced by Egyptian press reports.

To increase their profits at the expense of the working people, the owners of private enterprises are trying in any way to avoid making contributions to the social insurance fund which is used to pay disability benefits and small pensions to working people. The newspaper AL-AHALI says that the private sector yearly withholds about 80 million Egyptian pounds from the social insurance fund.

By firing workers and intimidating them, the employers force many workers to give up social insurance voluntarily, the newspaper AL-MASA writes. If the manufacturer fails avoid insuring his workers he makes deductions to the fund at minimum wage rates.

As a result of such arbitrary actions by Egyptian manufacturers, over three million workers employed in the private sector are fully deprived of the opportunity of benefiting from the social insurance system.

EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR PRC AGGRESSION

LD030055 Moscow TASS in English 2139 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

["Cairo Pays Its Debt to Peking"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS --TASS political commentator Igor Orlov writes:

These days when all peace forces of the planet are wrathfully protesting against China's barbaric attack on Vietnam, even among imperialist circles of the West it is difficult to find a figure who would dare openly, without shifting and dodging and without reservations, protect the aggressor. But, judging by a report of the XINHUA agency, this is exactly what At-Tuhami, political adviser to the president of Egypt, deputy prime minister at the presidency, who is visiting in Beijing made up his mind to do.

Speaking at the [world indistinct] given in his honour by Deng Xiaoping, this high-ranking Egyptian figure states that the aim of Beijing's aggression against Vietnam is "to ensure security and tranquility in China's border [words indistinct] reiterating the absurd myth which Beijing propaganda is spreading in the vain hope to delude the world public. At-Tuhami directly stated: "We are on your side".

Thus, Cairo is on the aggressor's side, but should one be surprised? Cairo, by supporting and encouraging the venture of the Chinese top leadership, in point of fact is paying its debt to Beijing for the latter's support for the course towards a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal--the course which is arousing indignation in the Arab world, since it deliberately sacrifices the interests of the people of Palestine and other Arab peoples.

It is not superfluous to recall in this connection that it was exactly Beijing that was one of the first to approve Cairo's capitulatory policy. "China, the Cairo AL-AKHBAR wrote with obvious approval, was one of the first to support the peace initiative of President as-Sadat and to state its full support for the Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. agreements at Camp David". At approximately the same time the West German STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG pointed out that China discontinued the delivery of arms to the Palestinians.

China's present political course, the Palestinian journal SAWT FALASTIN pointed out in this connection, is among the facts which make for the attainment of the main goals by the main enemies of the Arab nation--Zionism and U.S. imperialism. In the light of these facts it is not difficult to understand why the high-ranking representative of Cairo is now hurrying to the aid of the Chinese militarists whose aggression against neighbouring Vietnam finally laid bare the hegemonistic great-power essence of their policy.

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F 9

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

ISRAEL PLANNING MORE MILITARIZED SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED LANDS

LD051312 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 5, TASS--The Israeli authorities are planning to set up several new militarised settlements in the occupied Arab territories. According to information received here, the Israelis intend to build shortly one more settlement 70 kilometers to the south of Nablus. The government has already carved out a plot for this purpose and made financial allocations.

As pointed out today by the Beirut newspaper AL-LIWA reports on the efforts of the Israeli authorities to expand the network of militarised settlements in the occupied Arab territories coincide in time with the American-Israeli negotiations in Washington. The newspaper stresses that the Israeli extremists are demonstrating to the world again their intention to perpetuate the occupation of Arab lands and to use every yard of Arab territory for bargaining purposes in the course of the separate Israeli-Egyptian negotiations with American mediation.

ISRAELIS, CONSERVATIVES INTENSIFY EFFORTS IN LEBANON

LD042044 Moscow TASS in English 1943 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 4, TASS--The situation remains tense in the Lebanese capital and other parts of the country. In a bid to sharpen the situation, the conservative forces have undertaken new provocations in the western sector of Beirut. During the past night sporadic fire exchanges, involving artillery, occurred in the districts of Tahvita, Badaru, Saifi and in the centre of the city. Conservative detachments from the "Lebanese Front" continue to reinforce their positions in the eastern quarters of Beirut, putting up new barricades and other obstacles. The conservatives have received large consignments of weapons from Israel recently, the papers point out. Tel Aviv does not spare weaponry for the so-called Army for the Defence of South Lebanon either, which received the other day another 18 tanks and a large consignment of firearms and munitions. According to reports from the south of the country, Israeli troops and conservative detachments are concentrating in the eastern sector all along the line of contact with the U.N. peace-keeping force in Lebanon. In some places the conservatives mount provocative sallies in an attempt to capture populated centres controlled by the U.N. forces. According to the Lebanese press, the intensification of activities by conservative forces in different parts of the country and of the Israeli military in south Lebanon, point to an attempt to prevent the normalisation of the situation and frustrate the fulfilment of U.N. resolutions on restoring Lebanese sovereignty over the southern areas of the country.

USSR, PDRY SIGN BROADCASTING COOPERATION PROTOCOL

LD052340 Moscow TASS in English 2015 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 5, TASS--The USSR Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the Radio Broadcasting Service of the PDRY concluded a working protocol on cooperation between them. The protocol, signed today in Moscow, envisages broad exchanges of radio programmes about the most important events in the life of the peoples of the USSR and the PDRY, materials about folk art, and musical recordings. The document was signed by Deputy Chairman of the Soviet committee Aleksandr Evstafyev and Director General of Radio Broadcasting of the PDRY Jamal al-Khatib.

ZAPU'S NKOMO INTERVIEWED ON LIBERATION STRUGGLE

On Future State of Zimbabwe

LD051424 Moscow in Shona to Rhodesia 1600 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[From the "Zimbabwe Will Be Free" program]

[Text] The efforts of Smith's government and his black collaborators to frustrate the people's liberation are failing dismally. Yes, it is plain that many people no longer have any confidence in the government of the tobacco farmers. The people of Zimbabwe now know that their unity is the only sure means of destroying the settlers' government in their country. This view is further endorsed by the leader of ZAPU and co-leader of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, Mr Joshua Nkomo. [Begin recording]

[Announcer] Mr Nkomo, can you tell us what ZAPU stands for and its views on the people's alliance in the armed struggle in Zimbabwe?

[Nkomo in Ndebele, fading to Shona translation] There is nothing more crucial than the unity of all the people of our one country in their fight against their common enemy. This alliance is very important to the people of Zimbabwe in their efforts to destroy the regime that has colonized our country. ZAPU has always endeavored to educate the people about their role in the struggle and to understand the tasks they have to fulfill in their daily duties. Since its inception, ZAPU has never stood for sectional interests. It stands for the people of Zimbabwe without any distinction of tribe, race or color. It is essential for these people to be united in fighting the curse of oppression that has been inflicted on our country, in fighting the government of the tobacco farmers.

Really, what can stand in the way of this desire for peace and friendship? Can it be our speeches, or our traditional customs and ways of life? We are united together because we belong to the same country. We desire a free Zimbabwe that will bring a new way of life to all its people. We want to see a country without any racial or other form of discrimination--a country where no person or group occupies a privileged position. Our forces that are in Zimbabwe today come from different groups among all the people who live in the country. A new Zimbabwe will be a country whose riches will be under the control of the government and will be used according to the wishes of the people. Everyone will have the right to work or to be educated according to his capabilities. No one will be permitted to point a finger at someone and identify him as Ndebele, Zulu, Karanga or Manyika or Zezuru, or any other language group, all these various peoples will come under the same law without distinction, because these various peoples are the boys and girls, young men and young women of Zimbabwe. Our country will have many houses for the people. New hospitals and schools will be built by all people united together as children of one family. Yes, the war of liberation is still continuing. We are close to success in this war. Therefore, you must be aware that your most vital role is to give assistance to the young people of Zimbabwe who are bearing arms and are fighting the government of the tobacco farmers. In all this, we are confident that the hour of success is near. [end recording]

On Relations With USSR

LD051436 Moscow in Shona to Rhodesia 1600 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[From the "Zimbabwe Will Be Free" program; text of recording by ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo in English fading to Shona translation--date and place of recording not specified]

[Text] Relations between the freedom fighters and the Soviet Union are excellent.

This is a relationship among close friends and coworkers. The freedom fighters in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa understand and greatly appreciate and respect the help we get from the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. We thank the socialist states very much. In important world conferences and everywhere where there are meetings against racial oppression, these countries are continually championing our cause--the cause of the freedom fighters. We thank the socialist states for this help.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries enjoy total freedom--they are free from exploitation and all other forms of oppression. The socialist countries are the workers' countries--countries that respect the law. We, the people of Zimbabwe, are fighting for a free government that will respect the rule of law. This is what makes us want to unite with other freedom fighters throughout the world and those of the free states and of the socialist countries. We, the freedom fighters of southern Africa, realize that our task is a difficult one. It is not only the destruction of racist regimes but the entire system that favours the rule of the rich.

South Africa and Rhodesia are countries of oppressors and usurpers. It is not surprising that they are getting help from the Western powers--the most renowned oppressors and usurpers in the whole world. It is not surprising that the socialist states are helping us. This is because we are standing on the same side and on the same line of defense. These countries who liberated themselves are not content to sit back and watch their friends being oppressed and robbed. Definitely not. The workers of the world, the socialist and the freedom fighters are united against the collaboration of oppressive regimes.

The Soviet Union triumphed in the cause of freedom and justice, and in the battle for the general welfare of its people. The Soviet Union has, throughout its entire existence, been fighting against the oppressors and usurpers who are trying to reinforce the rule of the rich, of oppressors and thieves. This was the first country in the world to succeed in its struggle against oppression and to gain its freedom. The dedication and sacrifice of the Soviet Union are great examples to us all. Our friendship with the Soviet Union is very close. Our freedom fighters give thanks to the Soviet Union every time they use the clothes, medicine and other things they receive from the people of the Soviet Union. And the people of the Soviet Union, its workers and farmers, talk a great deal about our situation. They are openly encouraging us to dedicate ourselves to fighting for our freedom. They are together with us and our struggle is a legitimate one. Our pains are their pains, our suffering their suffering. The freedom fighters can never forget these words that express the solidarity of the workers of the world.

SAM NUJOMA COMMENTS ON SWAPO ATTITUDE TOWARD ELECTIONS

LD031310 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Sam Nujoma, the president of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, stated in an interview with a TASS correspondent that the people of Namibia will never agree to a neocolonialist solution of the country's problem. The president of SWAPO stressed the organization's readiness to take part in elections in Namibia under UN control provided that conditions allowing freedom of choice prevail. Sam Nujoma expressed deep gratitude to the Soviet Union and to other socialist countries for their all-round help and support to the patriots of Namibia.

REPORTS CITE NEW ACTS OF CIA SUBVERSION IN AFRICA

LD051912 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Africa 1500 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Reports are coming in about new subversive acts of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in Africa.

This time the American intelligence service intends to use the extreme rightist groups of white Namibians, the white resistance movement and the white South-West African movement for the struggle against the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO. The Namibian patriots have information which shows that the CIA is planning to direct the activity of these racist groups and to intensify the individual terrorism against leaders and activists of SWAPO and also to launch a slanderous propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting this organization. SWAPO also does not exclude the possibility that the groups of white resistance movement and the white South-West African movement were created and are being paid for by the American intelligence network.

Attention also goes on in other African countries to the noticeable activation of the subversive activity of the CIA. Recently, security organs in Uganda rendered harmless two terrorist gangs which were functioning in the south and southeast of that country. A big quantity of arms of Western production were captured, as well as radio transmitters, several cars and equipment for printing leaflets. These terrorists had big sums of money in local and foreign currency. When they were arrested they had a big quantity of literature calling for the overthrow of the current government. The members of these gangs admitted that they had close ties with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which financed them and directed their activity.

A subversive group was also exposed in the Congo. It also received all the necessary things for its activity from the CIA. The group engaged in organization of subversion and sabotage; its tasks also included the dissemination of disinformation about the internal situation in the Congo.

Through paid agents the CIA and the imperialist circles of the United States are attempting to strangle the revolution in People's Angola. The CIA organizes and finances campaigns in many Western countries to recruit mercenaries for the struggle against the legal government of Angola. The CIA's role is known also in the testing ground of the West German firm Otrag in Zaire. Secret tests are being carried out there under CIA control of the latest types of armaments for the NATO countries, in particular cruise missiles.

The reasons for the activation of the subversive activity of the U.S. CIA in Africa are quite understandable. American imperialism is frightened by the changes taking place now on that continent. After the downfall of the Portuguese colonial empire the borders of the independent countries shoved right up to Rhodesia and South Africa, the last bulwarks of international imperialism in Africa. The growth of the national liberation movement in the South African Republic, in Namibia and Zimbabwe as well as the strengthening of African solidarity limit the imperialist circles of the United States in their possibilities of preserving the last racist and colonial hotbeds on this continent. That's why Washington is stepping up its secret war with the national liberation movements and the progressive regimes in Africa. (?The above-named) facts convincingly show that the U.S. CIA is a serious threat for the African people. The CIA, writes the Congolese paper ETUMBA, spares no means for the sake of carrying out subversion and to [word indistinct] progressive governments in Africa. Everywhere the CIA serves the cause of imperialism, racism and reaction.

FIVE AFRICAN STATES ISSUE COMMUNIQUE AFTER LUSAKA MEETING

LD052134 Moscow TASS in English 2054 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Lusaka, March 5, TASS--The front-line states firmly condemn the aggressive acts perpetrated by the racist regimes of the RSA and Rhodesia against neighbouring African states, says a communique on the results of a meeting held by the heads of state of Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique and Botswana at Luanda, and published here today.

Participants discussed the situation in the south of the continent and outlined concrete measures towards assisting the national liberation movements in Africa in their struggle against racism and colonialism.

The heads of the five African states regard the forthcoming "general elections" in Rhodesia as an attempt by imperialist forces to achieve the recognition of their puppets. They appealed to world public opinion to observe without fail the U.N. sanctions against the Rhodesian regime and deny recognition to the [word indistinct] "elections." Participants in the meeting pledged full support to the struggles of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia. They condemned manoeuvres by the Pretoria regime aimed at frustrating the fulfillment of the U.N. resolution envisaging the granting of independence to the Namibian people.

RESULTS OF NAIROBI OAU MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORTED

LD051116 Moscow TASS in English 1056 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Nairobi, March 5, TASS--The expressed determination of free Africa to do away with vestiges of colonialism and racialism--this is one of the main results of the 32nd session of the Ministerial Council of the Organisation of African Unity, which has ended in the capital of Kenya.

The OAU Ministerial Council declared its full support to the liberation forces of Zimbabwe, headed by the Patriotic Front, the sole genuine representative of its people. The participants of the session condemned strongly the aggressive actions of the Rhodesian militarists against the frontline states.

The representatives of independent Africa demanded an end to the unlawful occupation of Namibia by the South African racialists. They reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Namibian people of freedom and national independence, expressed full solidarity with the only lawful representative of this people--SWAPO. Having exposed the fictitious character of the elections carried out in Namibia by the racialists, the session participants declared independent Africa's resolution to thwart the plans of establishing a neocolonialist regime in that country.

The OAU Ministerial Council condemned the plans of the Pretoria racist rulers to set up so-called independent "Bantustans" and urged all the countries of the world to desist from any relations and contacts with them. In its special resolution, the OAU Ministerial Council welcomed the decision of the new Iranian Government to stop oil deliveries to the racist regimes of South Africa, and also to the Israeli Zionists.

The session adopted also several resolutions on questions of expanding inter-African relations, economic and technical cooperation among the countries of Africa, financial and organisational questions.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT WORRIED OVER PRC BUILDUP ON FRONTIER

LD060926 Moscow TASS in English 0845 GMT 6 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 6, TASS--Indian opinion expresses serious anxiety over the build-up of China's military presence along the frontier with India. Several members of Parliament asked questions how the Indian Government reacted to press reports on China's military build-up in frontier regions. Earlier, the Indian press reported that China had deployed nuclear weapons in Tibet.

Replying to a question in Parliament on Monday, Jagjivan Ram, India's minister of defence, said that India was seriously worried over the militarisation of China. Such developments affected their security. The government was carefully watching the situation, especially the situation along the frontiers. The government took these factors into consideration and was accordingly planning to strengthen India's defence potential.

DEFENSE MINISTER RAM COMMENTS ON UPCOMING KOSYGIN VISIT

LD051300 Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 5, TASS--The forthcoming visit to India of Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, will allow the leaders of both countries not only to discuss questions related to the international situation, but also to exchange views on problems of further expanding Indian-Soviet commercial and economic cooperation, it was stated in an interview to Soviet pressmen by Jagjivan Ram, vice premier and defence minister of India.

For many years now the Soviet Union is rendering India substantial assistance in the sphere of economy, particularly in the development of key branches of industry, he noted further. The USSR always sided with India in questions of international relations. Indian-Soviet friendship meets to a maximum extent the interests of both countries.

India and the Soviet Union approach from common positions the question of safeguarding world peace: Both countries come out against war and aggression, for the independence of all states, for universal and durable peace.

A new stage in the development of Indian-Soviet cooperation, consolidation of friendship between the two peoples, J. Ram noted, started with the signing of the historic treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation between India and the Soviet Union. J. Ram expressed the conviction that Indian-Soviet relations would continue to develop in the most diverse spheres.

U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR INDIAN OCEAN DISARMAMENT TALKS HALT

LD011625 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 9, 23 Feb 79 p 14 LD

[V. Gardov article: "Why Have the Talks Been Stopped?"]

[Text] Mankind is interested in closing as many channels as possible along which the arms race is proceeding or might proceed in the future. For this reason the interest with which the world greeted reports that an exchange of opinions had begun between the Soviet Union and the United States on questions concerning the Indian Ocean is perfectly understandable. This dialog began in June 1977.

The talks on yet another sphere of disarmament attests to the broadening of the Soviet U.S. dialog which is so important for the cause of international detente. They broached a question which is of interest not only to the participants in the talks but also to the entire world community and above all the Indian Ocean littoral countries.

In recent years the Indian Ocean problem has repeatedly been the subject of discussion at conferences of nonaligned states. In 1971 the question of declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace was included in the UN General Assembly agenda.

The Soviet Union actively supports the idea of preventing an increase in military preparations in this region. Speaking in the Indian Parliament in November 1973 L.I. Brezhnev called the proposal for the Indian Ocean's transformation into a zone of peace an interesting initiative inspired by concern for Asia's peaceful future. And the CPSU Central Committee report to the 25th party congress stated: The Soviet Union sympathizes with what a number of countries have stated in advocating that the Indian Ocean region should not become an arena for the creation of various powers' military bases, has no intention of building military bases in the Indian Ocean and calls on the United States to adopt the same position.

The USSR and the United States have held four rounds of talks. After the second round (September 1977) the press noted that the talks had entered a "practical phase". Indeed, some progress was achieved on the way to an agreement which would provide for the "freezing" of the USSR and U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean and envisaged that the two countries forbear from deploying strategic armed forces there. Such an agreement might contain a clause that after the "freeze", talks would be continued with the aim of reducing the military presence and military activity of nonlittoral states in this region.

During the fourth round of talks held 7-17 February 1978 in Berne, the sides began compiling the initial draft texts of certain parts of the aforementioned agreement. Many points remained on which agreement had not been reached, but common formulas were found for a number of issues.

Unfortunately, after the fourth round, the talks stopped. From time to time U.S. spokesmen allege melancholically that the American side is interested in their continuation. A month ago, in his message to Congress, J. Carter called the problem of "freezing" the military presence in the Indian Ocean one of the fields in which the USSR and the United States could "cooperate constructively." But how is it possible to cooperate constructively when the United States is rejecting the Soviet Union's proposals to continue the talks?

States in the Indian Ocean region have repeatedly come out in favor of the speediest conclusion of a Soviet-U.S. agreement. After all, reaching such an agreement would be an important step along the path of creating a zone of peace in that region. The Soviet Union is seeking to orient its negotiations with the United States toward precisely this prospect. It proceeds from the premise that through a "freeze" and subsequently the reduction of military activity in the Indian Ocean, including the dismantling of military bases, the idea of creating a zone of peace there would acquire more realistic contours.

The situation that has developed is disturbing the world public. The UN General Assembly resolution, adopted on 14 December last year by 130 votes, expressed regret that the talks had come to a halt and contained an appeal for their immediate resumption. The same resolution provides for the convening of a conference of littoral and nonlittoral [materikovyye] states of the Indian Ocean basin. Its participants would undoubtedly pay earnest attention to the present state of the Soviet-U.S. talks, for which the United States is to blame.

But what is the reason for the United State's refusal to hold talks?

The impression is formed that, as in the case of certain other negotiations on disarmament (for example the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe) Washington, for propaganda purposes, has an interest in having consultations on the limitation of military activity in the Indian Ocean begin and in having this problem discussed. Certain U.S. circles were thereby counting on taking the sting out of the criticism being levelled at their policy in this region by the Indian Ocean littoral states and by the world public. However, while hoping to make use, for propaganda purposes, of the fact that they were taking part in negotiations, these circles, to judge from all accounts, were not setting themselves the task of achieving specific results. Therefore, as soon as the talks entered a practical phase and the possibility appeared of drawing up an agreement, they simply halted the talks. At the same time, the United States is continuing to build up its military presence in this region. In connection with the events in Iran the number of U.S. naval ships in the Indian Ocean has doubled. The final fitting out of the U.S. base on Diego Garcia island is going ahead more rapidly.

Insofar as the U.S. side is making no statement that it has broken off the talks, the impression is created that they are continuing. In itself, the situation along the road to reaching agreement in the disarmament sphere is tantamount to a buildup of the arms race. Each step away from talks is a step away from military detente.

Moreover, by starting any disarmament talks and then abandoning them, some people in the United States are possibly counting on creating the impression that they are altogether futile. We tried to come to an understanding, they say, we tried but nothing came of this. Hence a bridge is being built in the direction of arguments in favor not of the limitation but of the buildup of military efforts, and not of reducing, but of increasing military spending.

These days, toying like this with talks on limiting the arms race and on disarmament means taking on oneself a serious responsibility.

U.S. SEEKING INDIAN OCEAN FLEET TO BOLSTER PRESTIGE

LDO30040 Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] New York, 2 March, TASS--The newspaper New York TIMES carries an article which discloses Washington's plans to increase U.S. military might far beyond the borders of the United States. The U.S. Defence Department, the article says, is seeking a new and sizable naval presence in the Middle East including the creation of a fleet in the Indian Ocean to bolster American prestige in the region.

The newspaper points out that the fleet is to comprise an aircraft carrier, destroyer and amphibious assault ships carrying helicopters. A special place in the Pentagon's ominous plans is being assigned to the expansion of the U.S. military base in Diego Garcia Island which has been turned into a big U.S. naval advanced post in the Indian Ocean. Long range anti-submarine patrol planes armed with rocket weapons are to be stationed there. The newspaper quotes "one high-ranking official" in the Pentagon as saying "we are prepared to do what is necessary, including the use of military force, to protect our vital interests" in the area.

To all appearances, practical measures are already being taken to realise those dangerous designs. Thus the Defence Department officially announced that three warships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet--two frigates and a destroyer--passed from the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal, heading for the Indian Ocean.

All this indicates that the USA is expecting to ensure a military superiority for itself in that strategic region in order to dictate its will to the people there. Judging by everything, Washington, acting at variance with the resolutions of the United Nations Organisation, intends to steer matters to unleashing a large-scale arms race in the Indian Ocean.

The New York TIMES report, based on statements by Pentagon representatives, sheds additional light on recent pronouncements by officials of the U.S. administration. Thus, Defence Secretary Harold Brown and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger spoke in public of plans to broaden U.S. "military presence" in the Middle East and in the Persian Gulf area.

The U.S. progressive public is resolutely condemning Washington's plans to deploy U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf area. The statement issued here by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USA points out: The people of the United States are not going to tolerate their sons being sent to the Persian Gulf to die fighting for the interests of oil monopolies. The Communist Party of the USA considers that such plans increase the danger of stirring up a fire of war. The two major hotbeds of war in the world today--in the Far East and in the Middle East--have been ignited with the assistance of U.S. imperialism.

Beirut, March 2, TASS--The peoples of the Middle East took with concern the reports on new militarist aspirations of the USA, writes the Lebanese newspaper AL-NAHAR, pointing out that the pronouncements by U.S. Government officials were not unexpected. The United States, the newspaper goes on, has always sought to make the countries of the region be obedient to Washington. The artificially spread rumours about a mythical "threat" to Arab oil-extracting countries, threat which allegedly originated in connection with the Iranian revolution, are in actual fact inspired by the USA in order to cover up its aggressive policy in the Middle East, writes AL-SHA'B. The United States has never reckoned with the will of the peoples of the region, and, constantly brandishing weapons, wants to intimidate them by the myth about "a threat from the outside."

Damascus, March 2, TASS--The Syrian radio, condemning the plans for expanding U.S. "military presence" in the Middle East, in the Persian Gulf area and in the Indian Ocean, points out: "The present stand of the White House and statements by high-ranking officials should be viewed as an impudent interference in the affairs of sovereign peoples and as a provocation against them."

Reinforcing Indian Ocean Task Force

LD021404 Moscow World Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Summary] Three U.S. Navy warships from the 7th Fleet are being sent through the Suez Canal to the Indian Ocean. The news agencies took it as a fresh sign of U.S. intentions to maintain a continuing military presence in that region. "Reinforcement of the Indian Ocean Task Force by three warships follows the statements by senior U.S. Government officials indicating an intention to expand the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean areas. Along with the naval presence, consideration is being given to regular flights by U.S. Air Force warplanes to Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Persian Gulf region."

ID021048 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

The representatives of the business and government circles of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines sought for the "Nine's" renunciation of the policy of protectionism in trade with the countries of Southeast Asia, which seriously damages their economic interests. Furthermore, the ASEAN countries offered the Common Market to render financial aid in the realization of 196 specific projects aimed at developing industry, agriculture, and infrastructure in the ASEAN countries.

The unproductive outcome of the "dialogue" was predetermined by the basic distinction of the positions held by the two (?economic systems), which met at the negotiations table. The developing nations are largely dependant on foreign trade in their economic development. They are striving persistently to remove the discriminatory barriers put up to the goods from Southeast Asia in the countries of Western Europe, as well as in the United States and Japan. The Western states pursue different goals.

At the same time, the imperialist states are endeavouring to play the "China card," to facilitate the strengthening of Beijing, primarily of its war industry. All this arouses serious concern.

ID022218 Moscow TASS in English 2036 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

The growing difficulties in the country's foreign trade are explained by the ever-growing contradictions in relations of New Zealand with the Common Market, the United States and Japan. The EEC customs barriers, import quotas and curbs had placed an insurmountable barrier to New Zealand's exports. The real per capita income in New Zealand is decreasing, masses of farmers become impoverished, the unemployment rate is growing. It reached four per cent of the work force.

PRC DEFERMENT OF CONTRACTS WITH JAPAN A HEAVY BLOW

OW020547 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1400 GMT 1 Mar 79 OW

[Text] Trade and industrial circles in Japan are extremely unhappy over the PRC decision to defer the fulfillment of contracts for import of industrial plants from Japan. In this connection, Radio Moscow correspondent Vladimir Tsvetov reports from Tokyo:

A freeze has been imposed on contracts totaling \$3.7 billion. The PRC decision is a heavy blow to Japan's foreign trade, which is struggling with sluggish exports. Its trade balance for January was \$827 million in the red. Twenty Japanese trade firms cabled Beijing to protest the Chinese action, while four leaders of trade circles left for China to seek official PRC explanations.

Today's SANKEI SHIMBUN, expressing the anxiety in trade and industrial circles, says that one cannot rule out the possibility that the Chinese decision may deal a heavy blow to the Japanese business community, which has heavily counted on Chinese trade for their own economic recovery. Thus, misgivings over a China boom have come true. Many people had warned that the massive propaganda launched by Beijing about the "vast potential of the Chinese market now opened to the Japanese export industries" would eventually end up the way it did.

For example, Hiroyuki Tsubaki, chief of the China department of JETRO [Japan External Trade Organization], said that China is unable to pay for the plants. Yoshihira Inayama, board chairman of Japan Steel Corp. wrote in the JAPAN TIMES that the Chinese market is by no means a (?dreamland). It has become a graveyard for the dreams of Japanese exporters.

There is another factor involved in Beijing's refusal to honor the contracts. Beijing had first led Japanese businessmen to think that they could make money in the Chinese market, then secured political concessions from Japan including that of "joint struggle against hegemony" with some attractive trade promises as bait. After all this, now it is blackmailing Japanese businesses. SANKEI SHIMBUN notes that the Chinese action could be part of its strategy to facilitate the introduction of Japanese funds on PRC terms. In other words, in the foreign trade area, as well as in other areas of its foreign relations, Beijing is resorting to false commitments, random cancellation of agreements and coercion. A correct expression of this practice is the word "hegemony."

Today's SANKEI SHIMBUN, expressing the views of the Japanese business community, says that Japan should lodge a strong protest on behalf of the international business world.

JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN CONCERNED ABOUT TRADE WITH PRC

LD022320 Moscow TASS in English 2018 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 2, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Kuchko reports:

The Japanese business circles that pinned much hope on the Chinese market after the conclusion of the Japanese-Chinese "treaty of peace and friendship" now become to realize how illusory their expectations are. They become increasingly concerned, writes the influential magazine TOYO KEIZAI, that the so-called modernization of economy widely publicised by Beijing is aimed mostly at the development of the war industry, trading with the West, China seeks mainly to purchase armaments and military equipment and refuses to buy equipment for peaceful branches of industry.

According to the Japanese press, China informed the Japanese business circles a few days ago of the decision to put off indefinitely the implementation of major contracts to the sum of several hundred billion yen. Instead of that, Beijing is now increasing the purchases of armaments.

TOYO KEIZAI points out that China is purchasing fighter bombers, anti-tank missiles, nuclear (?reactors from) West European countries, reconnaissance satellites, computers and nuclear technology from the USA. There is no doubt that the adoption of the present (?decision) is caused by China's intention to find the means for continuation of the war against Vietnam, writes the newspaper NIHON KOGYO SHIMBUN. China, that started military actions against Vietnam, pays the main attention to providing supplies for its troops.

At the same time sober-minded representatives of the business circles of Japan expressed serious concern about a possibility of trade with China. This concern has become a reality, YOMIURI writes. Those who were in raptures about the "Chinese boom" are now shocked and perplexed, SANKEI SHIMBUN writes. 20 Japanese companies already sent protests to China in connection with its denunciation of the contracts concluded earlier. Some firms recall their representatives from Beijing. According to the president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry S. Nagano, the Japanese business circles now have to pay for having failed to take into consideration all the factors in trade with China.

JAPAN CP OFFICIAL SCORES PRC 'RUMORS' ON VIETNAM PULLOUT

LD050855 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 79 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Mighty Wave of Indignation"]

[Excerpt] 25 February--Speaking at a press conference in Tokyo on the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, T. Fuwa, chairman of the Japan Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat, stated that in order to avoid world condemnation China is "deliberately spreading rumors" about some kind of "temporary halt to military actions" and even the "withdrawal" of Chinese troops from Vietnamese territory, while in actual fact Beijing is trying to step up the criminal adventure against Vietnam.

In the opinion of Western military observers in Beijing, so Japan's NIHON KEIZAI reports, Chinese troops are suffering much greater losses than the Beijing leaders have suggested.

JAPAN-SOVIET SOCIETY OPENS GENERAL MEETING IN TOKYO

OW050052 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1400 GMT 4 Mar 79 OW

[Text] The Japan-Soviet Society has opened its 23d general meeting in Tokyo, participated in 150 activists from 24 prefectures and representatives of various social organizations and political parties including the Japan Communist Party and the Japan Socialist Party.

Addressing the opening session, speakers highly evaluated the society's role in promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and the Soviet Union.

Speakers also called for a stepped-up campaign for peace and democracy to cope with the aggravated international situation due to China's aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Soviet Ambassador's Speech

OW031225 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 2 Mar 79 OW

[Vladimir Tsvetov report on 15th meeting of Japanese-Soviet Exchange Society held in Tokyo on 1 March]

[Excerpt] The Japanese-Soviet Exchange Society held its 15th meeting in Tokyo on 1 March. At the meeting (Tsunesaburo Katayama), chairman of the society, delivered the opening address in which he described the outstanding role played by the Soviet Union in strengthening world peace. He said: "The Soviet Union has been steadily marching along the course charted by Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state, in 1917. Japan and the Soviet Union, both big powers, can greatly contribute to insuring world peace and security by strengthening their friendship and good-neighborly relations. The Japan-Soviet Exchange Society is striving to promote this noble mission entrusted to the two countries."

Next, Soviet Ambassador to Japan Polyanskiy spoke. He said: The past year has been a difficult year in Japanese-Soviet relations. Nevertheless, relations between socialist organizations of the two countries have been broadened. These relations have been characterized by an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust. But to our regret, there has been no such atmosphere in the current political and state relations between the two countries. We are not to be blamed for this. We have always said that the Soviet people are ready to steadily and boldly move along the road of strengthening their relations of good-neighborhood and mutual cooperation with Japan. This has been borne out by their practical actions. But the Japanese Government's response to Soviet proposals has not always been affirmative. Certain Japanese actions recently taken in the international arena and in regard to Japanese-Soviet relations are raising fears about the fate of peace and security in Asia and in the world.

Ambassador Polyanskiy said in conclusion: Japanese leaders have said time and again that they want to develop Japanese-Soviet relations. If they take concrete actions to substantiate their statements, Soviet-Japanese relations will begin to make smooth progress in the near future.

U.S. -ROK 'TEAM SPIRIT' EXERCISES PART OF MILITARIST SCHEME

OW020521 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 1 Mar 79 OW

[Vinogradov commentary]

[Text] On 1 March the U.S. and South Korean combined forces command announced the start of a military exercise dubbed "Team Spirit-79." The exercise--the fourth of its kind since 1976--is noteworthy first of all for its unprecedented scale. There are 168,000 U.S. and South Korean officers and men taking part--72,000 more than in "Team Spirit-79." Participating on the U.S. side are units from Okinawa and Hawaii, plus air force units and ships of the 7th Fleet.

The nature and scale of the exercise indicate the U.S. intention of increasing tension in the Far East. To that end, the Pentagon has tenaciously been striving to draw U.S. allies--first of all, the reactionary Government of South Korea--into activities aimed at disrupting the process of detente. "Team Spirit-79" is part of the U.S. militarist scheme.

Earlier, an artillery exercise was held at Camp Hansen, a U.S. military base on Okinawa. It was the 21st such exercise held since Okinawa's reversion to the mainland. Also held recently was a Japan-U.S. joint naval exercise in the sea southwest of the Ryukyu Islands. This exercise, the largest in recent years, included an aircraft carrier, cruisers, nuclear submarines and aircraft units of the 7th Fleet and ships of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force [SDF].

Japanese papers, commenting on the exercise, called it implementation of the Japan-U.S. "defense cooperation guidelines" worked out toward the end of last year. Under these guidelines, the Japan SDF is expected to be thrown into action with the U.S. forces in an emergency. The next phase in implementation of the guidelines calls for the first group of Japanese Air Force pilots to be sent to the United States for training with F-15's. Under U.S. pressure for an SDF buildup, Japan has decided to buy 100 F-15's from the United States.

The exercise "Team Spirit-79" is first of all aimed at reaffirming the U.S. military presence on the Korean Peninsula. At the same time, as noted by ASAHI SHIMBUN, it shows that the United States has dropped its plan to reduce its military presence in South Korea. The reduction had been pledged by President Carter during his presidential campaign. ASAHI SHIMBUN wrote: "The timing of the exercise is by no means a coincidence. It is timed with the resumption of negotiations between the DPRK and the ROK on the reunification issue. The exercise's second phase is scheduled for 7 March."

Anyway, one cannot afford to overlook the persistent U.S. intention of having Japan participate in all military exercises. By doing so, the United States seeks to expand SDF operations and push Japan deeper into a costly arms expansion race. Japanese participation can be either direct, as in the case of the recent joint naval exercise, or indirect as in "Team Spirit-79" involving marines and 7th Fleet ships from U.S. bases in Japan.

The policy of preparing for war pursued by the United States in Northeast Asia with Japanese support is aggravating tension in the area, although the policy's planners assert that it will promote peace and stability. Japan's neighboring countries, including the USSR, cannot but pay attention to this fact.

MOSCOW FUNCTION RECALLS KOREAN RISING AGAINST JAPAN

LD051251 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--On 27 February a soiree devoted to the 60th anniversary of the start of the people's uprising in Korea against Japanese imperialism was held in the Moscow House of Friendship.

It was noted that giving aid and support to the peoples in their just struggle for freedom and independence is the unvarying line of the CPSU and Soviet state. Soviet people are in solidarity with the fraternal Korean people building socialism under the hard conditions of the country's division. They angrily condemn the policy of imperialist interference in Korea's internal affairs and support the efforts of the Korean Workers Party and the DPRK Government aimed at resolving the problem of the country's unification by peaceful means and on a democratic basis. Kim Chae-pong, DPRK ambassador to the USSR, spoke at the soiree.

RAUL CASTRO CONTINUES OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR

Visits Cosmonaut Training Center

LD051339 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Feb 79 p 1 LD

[Correspondent report: "Guests of the Cosmonauts"]

[Excerpt] On 22 February Army General Raul Castro Ruz, Politburo member and second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, currently in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit, and members of a Cuban military delegation visited the Yu. A. Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center.

The guests from socialist Cuba were accompanied by USSR Deputy Defense Ministers Chief Marshal of Aviation R.S. Kutakhov and Army General S.K. Kurkotkin and by Lt Gen G.A. Borisov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry External Relations Directorate.

Tours Academy, Gives Dinner

LD051141 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Feb 79 p 1 LD

[Correspondent report: "Visit Continues"]

[Text] On 24 February Army General Raul Castro Ruz, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Politburo and second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, who is in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit, and the members of the Cuban military delegation visited the M.V. Frunze Military Academy.

The guests from socialist Cuba were accompanied by USSR Deputy Defense Ministers Army General I.G. Pavlovskiy and Army General S.K. Kurkotkin.

Col Gen P.V. Melnikov, the academy's chief, told the Cuban guests about the history of this renowned military training establishment founded in 1918 on instructions from V.I. Lenin and about the tasks which the academy's collective is resolving at the present stage of military building. The guests viewed the training classes and laboratories.

A Soviet-Cuban friendship meeting was held in the academy's assembly hall. Army General Raul Castro Ruz, warmly greeted by the academy teachers and students assembled in the hall, delivered a speech at the meeting. The meeting developed into a graphic display of friendship and fraternity between the USSR Armed Forces and the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The same day Army General Raul Castro Ruz, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, held a dinner in honor of Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister.

The dinner, which took place in a warm, friendly atmosphere, was attended by Marshal of the Soviet Union N.V. Ogarkov, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces and USSR first deputy defense minister; Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, USSR first deputy defense minister; USSR deputy defense ministers and other Soviet military leaders. N.I. Savinkin, CPSU Central Committee department chief, also attended the dinner.

Brezhnev, Castro Award Speeches

LD271242 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 79 p 1 LD

[Text] TASS--Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, presented Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, Politburo member and second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, first vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, with the Order of Lenin in the Kremlin today.

He has been honored with one of the highest Soviet orders for great services in the cause of developing and strengthening friendly relations between the Armed Forces of the USSR and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba. Present at the award presentation ceremony were, on the Soviet side: Comrades Ustinov; Kuznetsov; Rusakov; Georgadze; Ogarkov, chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and first deputy USSR defense minister; Kulikov, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states and first deputy USSR defense minister; Yepishev, head of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy; S.L. Sokolov, USSR first deputy defense minister; S.K. Kurkotkin, USSR deputy defense minister; A.M. Aleksandrov and A.I. Blatov, aides to the CPSU Central Committee general secretary; and K.M. Bogolyubov, CPSU Central Committee first deputy department chief.

On the Cuban side, those present were: Vilma Espin de Castro, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, member of the Council of State and president of the Women's Federation; Severo Aguirre del Cristo, ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the USSR; Div Gen Abelardo Colome Ibarra; Brig Gen Sixto Batista Santana; and other members of the Cuban military delegation accompanying Raul Castro.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev made a speech at the award ceremony. He said:

Dear Comrade Raul Castro, dear comrades: All of us have long and well known Raul Castro, one of the closest comrades [podvizhnik] of Fidel Castro, the leader of the Cuban revolution.

Comrade Raul--For this is how we have become accustomed to calling him in a simple and friendly manner--has done a great deal for the development of multilateral Soviet-Cuban ties and for the strengthening of cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries. Our motherland's highest order; the Order of Lenin gives a fitting appraisal for his services.

Presenting this award, it seems appropriate for me to stress that the Soviet Union's relations with fraternal Cuba are a very good example of cooperation based on mutual respect, equality and full confidence in each other.

Both in the questions of constructing a new society and in international affairs, we always find a common language with our Cuban friends, acting in agreement with each other. This is normal. Our unity is an expression of the CPSU's and Cuban Communist Party's fidelity to the cause of Marx and Lenin, to socialist solidarity principles, and of a profound community of interests and aims of the Soviet and Cuban peoples.

Dear Comrade Raul, I wish you good health and happiness and new, great successes in your responsible work for the good of the Island of Freedom.

Raul Castro made a speech in reply. He said:

Respected Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, dear comrades: First and foremost, allow me to express my most profound gratitude for this noble gesture and high honor: the awarding to me of so honorable an order, bearing the beloved name of Lenin, a man of genius, whose ideas and activities teach, inspire and guide the peoples of the socialist community, working people and oppressed peoples the world over.

On behalf of all the comrades who are in the leadership of our party, communists and Komsomol members, all Cuban revolutionaries whom I represent and on whose behalf I accept this award, I sincerely thank you for this proof of true brotherhood.

Some 20 years after the victory of the Cuban revolution, the establishment and consolidation of the first socialist state in the Western Hemisphere cannot be understood if you exclude one decisive factor, to wit: The indisputable fact that our revolution is the result of the united action of the working class, laboring peasantry, revolutionary intelligentsia and entire Cuban people, whose best representatives now comprise our Marxist-Leninist vanguard--the Communist Party of Cuba.

The achievements of our revolution and the merits and features of the Cuban people's character, forged in the process of fusing revolutionary-patriotic traditions with the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism and the cause of world socialism, are embodied and personified in the creator of this unity, the inspirer of the people's moral forces, their leader and guide--first secretary of our party Comrade Fidel Castro.

I can tell you, my comrades and friends, that I accept the Order of Lenin with the same feeling that I experienced in the Sierra Maestra when by a decision of Comrade Fidel Castro, commander in chief of the insurgent army, I was awarded my lofty military title and instructed to open up and assume command of a second front.

As at that moment, I now believe that the historic commitments and the path I chose when I became a communist give me a fresh opportunity to confirm my oath of loyalty to the cause of the oppressed and exploited, the cause of freedom, justice and social progress, the cause of socialism and communism.

Dear Soviet comrades:

Accepting the Order of Lenin today, I state with pride that I will be wearing it as a symbol of inviolable friendship, community of principles, close fraternal revolutionary and human ties which unite the motherland of Lenin and socialist Cuba, as a symbol of exemplary relations between a small, poorly developed country and a mighty socialist developed state without whose aid and cooperation, despite our people's heroism and their will in the struggle, the Cuban revolution would not have been able to withstand clashes with the cruel might of the North American imperialists.

Today it would be impossible to continue successful socialist construction in the conditions of the criminal blockade imposed by the United States.

The fact, that I am getting the Order of Lenin precisely from your hands, dear Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, from the hands of the man who stands at the head of the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union which leads the Soviet state to new, even loftier heights in the cause of progress and the flourishing of its people and implements the Leninist foreign policy in the interests of the peoples of the world, security and mankind's future, gives me particular satisfaction.

This policy and the realities of the Soviet Union as it is today, despite the slanderers' abuses, constitutes an inexhaustible source of the high authority of this order which we accept as the highest ever honor accorded us.

The Soviet and Cuban comrades who were present, cordially greeted Raul Castro on the occasion of the high Soviet award and wished him further great successes in his tireless activities for the good of socialist Cuba and for strengthening the combat comradeship-in-arms between the armed forces of the USSR and the Republic of Cuba.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Report on Visit

LD061145 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report "On the Visit to the USSR by a Cuban Military Delegation"]

[Text] A Cuban military delegation headed by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, member of the Politburo and second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, was in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit from 21 February through 1 March 1979 at the invitation of Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister.

Army General Raul Castro Ruz was received by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. During their talks there was an exchange of opinions on questions of further developing and strengthening fraternal cooperation between the Soviet Union and Cuba. Topical international problems were also touched upon. The talks took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship and unanimity.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium awarded Army General Raul Castro Ruz the Order of Lenin for his great services to the cause of developing and strengthening friendly relations between the Soviet Armed Forces and the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The Cuban minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and Cuban military delegation members had meetings and talks with Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, USSR defense minister, and other Soviet military leaders. In a friendly and businesslike atmosphere the two sides exchanged views on questions of further strengthening friendship and all-round cooperation between the Soviet and Cuban armed forces, as well as on other questions of mutual interest.

Deep satisfaction with the successful development of fraternal relations and cooperation between the USSR and Cuba was expressed and the desire to further expand ties between the Soviet Armed Forces and the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces was stressed.

The two sides consider the practice of regular meetings, talks and exchanges of experience between representatives of both countries' armies to be useful and deemed it expedient to continue and develop it.

During its stay in the Soviet Union the Cuban military delegation took part in the celebrations to mark the Soviet Army and Navy's 61st anniversary, visited the Yu.A. Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center and the M.V. Frunze Military Academy, and familiarized itself with the teaching process and training of officer cadres.

The Cuban military delegation was given a fraternal and cordial welcome everywhere.

The Cuban military delegation's visit to the Soviet Union was an important step in further developing and expanding military cooperation between the armed forces of the Soviet Union and Cuba.

ARBATOV VIEWS SOVIET-U.S. TIES, PRC IN ELECTION SPEECH

ID021429 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 24 Feb 79 p 2 ID

[AZERINFORM report: "For the Sake of Creation and Peace"]

[Excerpts] Shemakha, 23 February--Today the voters of Shemakhinskiy Electoral Okrug for elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities met with Academician Georgiy Arkadyevich Arbatov, candidate deputy of the supreme organ of state power, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of the United States and Canada.

Comrade Arbatov devoted a considerable section of his speech to international problems, in particular the development of Soviet-American relations. The Communist Party, he said, has set as its chief foreign policy aim the alleviation and ultimate elimination of the threat of war. It has put forward in recent years and is successfully implementing a package of constructive measures and proposals which make it possible to curb the arms race and achieve real progress in disarmament.

Talking about China's hostile attitude toward the relaxation of tension in the world, Academician Arbatov noted in particular that the events of recent days have shown that the West's support for and the imperialist states' ruling circles' flirting with Beijing merely serve to inflame its expansionist appetites. The fact that the criminal aggression against the heroic people of Vietnam began after Deng Xiaoping's U.S. trip can scarcely be regarded as an accident. This action will undoubtedly help to expose the Beijing leaders and unite peace-loving progressive forces who oppose their dangerous policy.

Allowing neither pause nor respite, the realistic and balanced foreign policy of the Soviet state, the speaker said in conclusion, meets with broad support and understanding on all continents. People of good will in all countries associate the successes in the hard battle for peace and detente, for the freedom and independence of the peoples, with the efforts of the Leninist party and its Central Committee and the activity of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Comrade Arbatov assured the meeting that he would make every effort to worthily justify the people's confidence.

GEN PAVLOVSKIY ELECTION SPEECH STRESSES ARMY VIGILANCE

ID051045 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 20 Feb 79 pp 1,3 ID

[GRUZINFORM report: "Guarding Peaceful Labor"]

[Text] A meeting of voters of the Mtskhetskiy Electoral Okrug for the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities elections with Hero of the Soviet Union Army General Ivan Grigorevich Pavlovskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR deputy defense minister, commander in chief of Ground Forces and candidate deputy for that okrug, has been held in the Kapskiy cement and slate combine's House of Culture. The election meeting's Presidium comprised Z.A. Chkhaidze, secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee; Lt Gen A.M. Overchuk, member of the Military Council and chief of the Red Banner Transcaucasian Military District Political Directorate; representatives of party and social organizations and leading production workers.

The meeting was opened by Kapskiy Rayispolkom Chairman V.I. Eritashvili.

To tumultuous applause the meeting's participants elected an honorary Presidium consisting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The candidate deputy's agent, T.G. Alibegashvili, director of the Kapskiy cement and slate combine, recounted I.G. Pavlovskiy's career and called on all voters on election day to cast their votes for candidates of the inviolable bloc of Communists and non-party people, for the Soviet people's true sons and daughters and for the prosperity of our great motherland.

The meeting was addressed by T.M. Sheshaberidze, editor of Kapskiy Rayon's newspaper GANTIADI; T.G. Timchenko, lecturer at the Kapskiy secondary school No 2; G.Ch. Paremuzashvili, engineer and technologist at the Kaspielektroapparat plant; M.A. Berianidze, secretary of the Kapskiy Komsomol Raykom; and others. They said that the current USSR Supreme Soviet elections are being held in an atmosphere of tremendous political and labor enthusiasm generated by the CPSU Central Committee July and November 1978 plenum decisions and the CPSU Central Committee message to all voters and USSR citizens, who are sparing no efforts to implement the plans for the current year and the 5-year plan as a whole. They stressed that on election day they will unanimously vote for candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people.

I.G. Pavlovskiy, who was warmly welcomed by those present, delivered a speech. He said that he wholly attributes the trust and the warm words addressed to him to our glorious Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee. He evaluates it as a manifestation of working people's sincere respect for their armed forces, who are vigilantly standing guard over the Soviet people's peaceful labor.

At the forthcoming elections, as before, the Communist Party is standing in unified formation with nonparty people. The traditional bloc of Communists and nonparty people is one of the most graphic manifestations of the unbreakable unity of the party and the people.

The candidate deputy went on to describe the years which have passed since the last USSR Supreme Soviet elections and cited facts and figures testifying to the powerful growth of the Soviet economy and to the Soviet people's prosperity. Working people in Georgia, particularly Kapskiy, Mtskhetskiy and Tianetskiy rayons, the speaker said, are making a worthy contribution to communist building.

The Soviet people link all their achievements with the mighty indissoluble alliance of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry and people's intelligentsia, the constantly strengthening friendship of the peoples of the USSR and the wise leadership of the Communist Party, its Leninist Central Committee and its Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev.

The candidate deputy stressed the inseparable connection between the tasks of communist and social development and questions of foreign policy and of strengthening the country's defense might. The party proceeds on the basis that socialism and peace are indivisible. Guided by Lenin's behest that steps toward peace must be reinforced by improving the country's defense capability, the CPSU and the Soviet state have paid unfaltering attention all these years to strengthening the homeland's defense. [paragraph continues]

Our party's principled line on questions of defending the socialist fatherland is clearly spelled out in its congress decisions and in the USSR Constitution. That line is supported unanimously by all the Soviet people.

The heroic Soviet Armed Forces are standing guard over the Soviet people's socialist gains and peaceful labor and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our state and also of the socialist community countries.

Nowadays soldiers see their chief task in implementing to a high standard the combat and political training plans and socialist pledges which have been adopted. In accordance with the USSR Constitution, they are reliably defending the peaceful labor of the Soviet people, who are implementing the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, and vigilantly standing guard over the interests and security of our motherland. Gen. I.G. Pavlovskiy again thanked the voters who have nominated him as candidate for the country's supreme organ of state power and assured them that he will continue to devote all his efforts, knowledge and experience to serving the Leninist party and the Soviet people and to strengthening our fatherland's economic and defense might.

SHEVARDNADZE DEMANDS IMMEDIATE PRC WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM

LDO51413 [Editorial Report LD] Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian on 22 February front-pages a GRUZINFORM report entitled "A Lofty Award for Valiant Labor," on a 21 February meeting in Batumi at which E.A. Shevardnadze presented a Challenge Red Banner to the Adzharskaya ASSR. The report contains a 2,000-word account of a speech by E.A. Shevardnadze in which he points out the republic's economic successes and discusses its future tasks. The speech contains the following passage:

"The economic and political activity of Adzharskaya ASSR's working people is of special socioeconomic, social and political significance. Our pride, sunny Adzhariya and its capital Batumi, lie at the junction of two worlds--the socialist and capitalist worlds. For this reason we must enhance the political vigilance of every working person, every communist and every inhabitant of the autonomous republic; comprehensively strengthen socialist discipline; develop the economy; improve the defense capability of our socialist homeland; and strengthen the link between the broad public and the army, navy and our valiant border guards vigilantly watching over the southern frontiers of the USSR.

"The recent Soviet Government statement in connection with the Chinese ruling elite's aggression against the freedom-loving sovereign Socialist State of Vietnam was a resolute rebuff to the Maoists. Throughout our state, including our republic, rallies are being held at which working people are pillorying the high-handed Chinese aggressors, the Maoists' reactionary clique who are encroaching on the freedom and independence of the heroic Vietnamese people. The working people of our republic join the rest of the Soviet people and all progressive mankind in demanding the immediate withdrawal of Chinese forces from Vietnamese territory.

"The complication of the international situation demands the further enhancement of the masses' labor and political activity and the unconditional fulfillment and overfulfillment of plan targets, counterplans and socialist pledges."

The report closes by stating that "Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze met with members of the Adzharskiy Obkom Bureau on 21 February."

BAYBAKOV NOTES OIL INDUSTRY PROBLEMS AT BAKU CELEBRATION

ID051053 [Editorial Report ID] Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian on 23 February carries on pages 1-4 an AZERINFORM report entitled "March Forward and Strive for New Victories," on N.K. Baybakov's 22 February presentation of the Challenge Red Banner to Azerbaijan.

The report contains the 4,800-word apparent text of N.K. Baybakov's speech at the meeting. Baybakov begins with a description of the USSR's economic progress and then moves on to highlight Azerbaijan's successes in the economic sphere. In the latter half of the speech Baybakov points out some "shortcomings" and "inadequate" measures in the republic's livestock-raising, capital construction and environmental conservation and then points out the tasks to be solved in various spheres in 1979. The speech contains the following passage:

"Azerbaijan's successes in national economic development are beyond question! But these successes and consequently the republic's contribution to the all-union economy could have been more substantial if fuller use had been made of the reserves for improving efficiency and quality in production, in all sectors and spheres of the Azerbaijan economy. And this must be mentioned even on this day of celebration. As Comrade L.I. Brezhnev pointed out at the CPSU Central Committee November (1978) Plenum, 'analysis of shortcomings has always served as our starting point for improving work.'

"We noted above the republic industry's successful fulfillment of plan targets and pledges for 1978. At the same time, around 7 percent of production associations and enterprises failed to fulfill annual plans, underproducing to the tune of R75 million. This was primarily the result of shortcomings in production organizations and violations of state and plan discipline.

"Plans for the production of many types of industrial output, including in the important sector of oil extraction, are being underfulfilled. We are bound to be alarmed by the fact that recent years have seen a reduction in the extraction of this very valuable raw material. This is largely due to the inadequate rate of exploratory and development drilling and also to the unsatisfactory use of existing reserves in the oil extraction industry and, above all, half-hearted introduction of secondary and tertiary methods in the development of oil fields."

The report also contains the 8,000-word apparent text of a speech by G.A. Aliyev at the meeting. In the speech Aliyev describes in considerable detail the successes in the republic's various economic sectors and gives an account of the tasks to be solved in 1979.

BREZHNEV GREETINGS TO APATIT KIROV CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

LD011313 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 79 p 1 LD

["Fruits of Shock Labor"]

[Text] To the construction workers, installation workers, operators, party, trade union and Komsomol organizations and all participants in the construction and startup of the apatite concentrate production complex at the Ministry of the Chemical Industry S.M. Kirov Apatit Production Association

Dear Comrades:

I heard with satisfaction the report that, working in the complex natural conditions of the Soviet Arctic, you are successfully coping with your tasks for the construction, commissioning and assimilation of new production capacities. This has enabled the output of raw material for the production of phosphorus fertilizers to be increased to 17 million tons yearly.

I should particularly like to note your latest remarkable labor victory: the ahead-of-schedule construction of facilities to produce 1.3 million tons of apatite concentrate and to mine 4 million tons of apatite-nepheline ore yearly. The production of apatite concentrate at the completed projects will provide for the additional output of a great quantity of fertilizer, and thus a practical contribution will be made toward implementing the 25th CPSU Congress decisions on the further development of agriculture and toward raising its efficiency.

Such high results have been achieved because of the great and fruitful work carried out under the guidance of the Murmanskaya Oblast party organization to raise the effectiveness of socialist competition in construction projects in a creative atmosphere and of businesslike contacts between the construction workers and miners of the association in the efficient organization of labor and widespread use of new technology and progressive methods in construction and in the skillful implementation of combined timetables for carrying out construction assembly and starting-up operations.

Your new obligation for the ahead-of-schedule commissioning this year of a new major complex for the production of apatite concentrate is worthy of approval.

I wish you, dear comrades, good health and great new creative victories in implementing the 10th 5-Year Plan targets.

[Signed] L. Brezhnev

TASKS IN GAS EXTRACTION REVIEWED AT MOSCOW MEETING

LD020720 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0000 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] At an expanded session of the Collegium in Moscow tasks were outlined for the successful fulfillment of the gas industry plan for 1979 and the socialist obligations for this year. The participants in the session decided to obtain this year the highest increment ever in natural gas extraction, or 33.6 cubic meters; to put into operation 10,000 km of main gas pipelines; to fulfill the annual plan by 25 December; and to supply the national economy with at least 6.5 billion additional cubic meters of valuable fuel and chemical raw material.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1627 GMT on 1 March in another report on this session renders this last figure as "5.5 billion" cubic meters.]

Comrade Orudzhev, minister of the gas industry, said that gas extraction this year would exceed 404 billion cubic meters. This means that it has more than doubled in the past 10 years. As before, the main increase in extraction will come from West Siberia, one of the main gas-bearing centers of the country. Large underground pipelines, the construction of which is envisaged this year, will also start there.

Taking part in the work of the expanded Collegium were Comrade Dolgikh, CPSU Central Committee secretary, and Comrade Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

AEROFLOT ANNOUNCES SERIAL PRODUCTION OF MI-10 HELICOPTER

LD022106 Moscow TASS in English 1948 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--A 12-ton section can be lifted and placed onto an assembly site with a pin-point accuracy by the Soviet-made helicopter Mi-10. The serial manufacture of the helicopter has been started, and it enjoys wide use, a TASS correspondent was told at the Aeroflot.

The Mi-10 was successfully used at machine building plants of the Volga area, where it helped to dismantle out-dated equipment and install new large-size machine-tools. The helicopter is now applied in most diverse operations: to install oil rigs and pylons of high-voltage power transmission lines in Siberia, to assembly huge spark extinguishers [as received] and other equipment at plants in the Russian Federation.

During the assembly work the helicopter's stability is ensured by an autopilot while the pilot moves to a plexiglass cab to operate control sticks and carefully and precisely lower the load onto the spot.

BRIEFS

GAS PRODUCTION--The USSR will produce 10 per cent more gas this year. Gas production has doubled in the 1970's, and the Soviet Union's share in the world total has gone up from 20 to 29 per cent. A family's monthly gas-bill equals the cost of a pack of cigarettes. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1721 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD]

TYUMEN OIL PRODUCTION--Tyumen oilmen have produced 46 million tons since the beginning of the year. Tyumenskaya Oblast has over 150 oil sites. During this 5-year plan, oil output there is to reach over 300 million tons per annum. This year oil output will be up 12 percent and gas output up over 31 percent since last year. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2330 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD]

INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX--Moscow, February 16, TASS--The Selemdzhyynskiy District in the zone of the Baykal-Amur Railway will become the centre of a major industrial complex. This forecast was made by geologists from the Far East who have discovered reserves of iron ore, titanium, tungsten and nickel there. Sites have already been selected for the construction of the first plants and ore concentration mills. All in all, more than 50 deposits of various minerals were discovered in the eastern section of BAM. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1958 GMT 16 Feb 79 LD]

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 2-4 MARCH

LD050714 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0100 GMT on 2 March reports that alfalfa sowing has begun in the Surkhandarya Valley and the Karshi steppe in south Uzbekistan. Machine operators in the area around Issyk-Kul'skaya Oblast in Kirgiza have completed the preparation of sowing and soil-cultivating machines for the spring fieldwork. All the plows, sowers and cultivators have been ready and some 3,000 tractors have been overhauled.

The radio reports at 0830 GMT on 2 March that spring fieldwork has begun on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Armenia. Grain crop growers in the republic's foothill areas have begun to sow spring crops. The irrigation network is being cleared and new plots are being developed. This year the area allotted to orchards and vineyards in Armenia is to increase by more than 2,000 hectares.

At 1100 GMT on 2 March the radio carries a commentary by Ivanov, chief editor of ZEMLEDELYE magazine, in which he speaks about spring fieldwork in the country. He stresses that in the south the sowing has already started and that the rest of the country is preparing seeds and machinery for sowing. On the whole, there are enough high quality seeds in sovkhozes and kolkhozes ready for sowing. However, he notes, some farms, particularly in the Non-Chernozem Zone, do not have certain types of seeds, such as perennial grass, flax, barley, buckwheat and millet, or they have seeds which are not up to standard and must be changed.

The radio at 0900 GMT on 3 March reports that farmers in Khersonskaya Oblast have carried out the final readiness check for the spring sowing. In just 3 or 4 days the farmers are to sow grain crops on over 500,000 hectares.

Moscow Radio at 0100 GMT on 4 March reports that farms in Omsk Priirtyshye are getting new equipment on the eve of spring sowing; some 1,000 tractors, grain sowers and cultivators have arrived there since the beginning of the year.

BRIEFS

KAZAKH GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITIES--The builders of the Karatogay, the (Berlik), the (Akuskiy) and other elevators for virgin land grain commemorate the 25th anniversary of virgin land reclamation working ahead of schedule. This is a result of applying the overall assembly technology, of combined construction and assembly operations, as well as of the broad application of brigade cost accountancy. This year the organizations of the Kazakh Ministry of Rural Construction have undertaken to put into service new granaries for more than 550,000 tons. In the past 25 years grain storing capacities in Kazakhstan have increased 7-fold. Kazakh granaries are now able to receive more than 1 million tons of grain daily. The new program for building granaries is due to the measures taken to further increase the fertility of wheat lands between the Irtysh River and the Urals. Long-term plans call for increasing grain yields in that region to 20 quintals per hectare. [Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1508 GMT 25 Feb 79 AU]

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES OF SOYUZ-32 COSMONAUTS

Physical Checks

LD021450 Moscow TASS in English 1420 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--TASS special correspondent reports from the Flight Control Center: For the sixth day Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin work in near-earth space. Medical checks were made today on board the orbital research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-32.

Immediately upon the awakening, the dynamics of the blood circulation of the flight engineer was analysed in the condition of repose. This made it possible to evaluate the adaptation of the organism's functions to weightlessness. The cosmonauts' bioelectric activity of the heart was then studied. The clinical control was implemented with the use of multifunctional apparatus Polynom-2M.

In the afternoon, the commander of the crew underwent a comprehensive check of the blood circulation system. Its purpose was to obtain the information on the specific features of redistribution of the blood in the organism and on the state of cardiac activity.

According to the data of the telemetric information and reports of the crew, the on-board systems of the Salyut-6-Soyuz-32 orbital complex are functioning normally. Cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin feel well.

Interview With Physician

LD041854 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] It is 1 week today since Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin began working in conditions of weightlessness. Here is an interview granted to our special correspondent Sergey Zheleznyak by the space crew's doctor, (Robert Vasilyevich Dyakonov): [begin recording]

[Question] (Robert Vasilyevich), first of all I would like to know how the cosmonauts feel, because it is known that the first days of a flight and the first days of weightlessness are the most difficult. Adaptation is in progress. How are the "protony" crew Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin?

[Answer] The "protony" crew are at this minute finishing their initial stage of adaptation to conditions of weightlessness. The first few days were fairly intensive and evoked some concern. This has mainly concerned Volodya Lyakov. He, of course, had to carry out quite intensive work and this intensive work against a background, let us say, of a very intensive reattunement of the systems of his organism to conditions of weightlessness adaptation. The initial phase is either acute or not. It was so for Vladimir for about 1 and 1/2 days, and then toward the evening of the 2d day of the flight in his conversation and his appraisal he said that he felt satisfactory and there was no need to make any corrections in the pharmacological or other measures.

A sufficiently high level of work capability by the crew is being noted. They are carrying out the whole program scheduled for the 24-hour period.

A particular feature of this flight is that several days ahead of schedule the crew asked to begin the day's program of exercises on the comprehensive trainers and exercisers on the cycle energy meter. The crew is taking and finding opportunities to begin training for the speedy completion of the adaptation stage.

[Question] Tell me now: The flight engineer and the commander are contrasting people, I would say, both psychologically and in training. One is a pilot who has never before been in space. The other is an engineer, but he already has behind him the experience of one space flight. Tell me then, was this taken into account in preparing the crew?

[Answer] If you are speaking about special medical preparation, then it was of course taken into account. One may say that the major part of the training in this respect for Vladimir Lyakhov was training of the vestibule system, while for Valeriy Ryumin the greater part was training to maintain a high functioning level of the cardiovascular system. A cycle of training sessions was planned which took into account the time effect, the number of training sessions and the duration of these training sessions. The end of this process of preparation took place in the launching position, in practice before the very start of the flight.

[Question] The crew now in space, and the one which was there just before, have averaged 40 years old. Tell me, is this just by chance or has space already become [word indistinct] for 40-year olds?

[Answer] You know, it seems to me a generally accepted view that the age of 35-45 is altogether a flourishing period for a person. At this age sufficient experience has already been accumulated and in worldly, professional and physical respects there is a fairly high level. But I think that in relation to spaceflight this applies even more so, and it is not by chance. After all, the crew to complete a definite space program is selected by no means by age but by the level of professional training and by the state of health. No age for a cosmonaut is an obstacle for carrying out a spaceflight.

Reactivation of Systems

LD051400 Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 5, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the Flight Control Centre:

Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin have been aboard the orbital scientific-research Salyut-6-Soyuz-32 complex for a week now.

In accordance with the programme, the crew have now reactivated the station's systems. The cosmonauts today are engaged in prophylactic examination and control of scientific equipment. The multi-band photo equipment MKF-6M has been reloaded and its efficiency has been checked.

Biological experiments in the study of influence of space flights factors on the development of various plants and tissue culture are continuing aboard the station.

In the previous two days the crew had active rest. They were cleaning the interior of the complex, conducted television reportages, did physical exercises, had rest.

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According to the results of the medical examination and reports of the crew, both cosmonauts are in good health and feel well. The systems of the scientific-research Salyut-6-Soyuz-32 complex are functioning normally. The programme of work in the near-earth orbit is successfully under way.

First Week Worries

LD051722 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

["Commentary on Salyut-6 Flight"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 5, TASS- TASS correspondent reports from the Flight Control Centre: Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin started their second work week in outer space today.

"Unhasty adaptation" to the space rhythm is a categoric recommendation of medics. A stand schedule of loads permissible for cosmonauts in the first few days of their work in conditions of imponderability is drawn up on the basis of the experience of previous flights. It is very important that the crew members should maintain self-control in this period, because this is when they have to withstand three load peaks at a time: adaptation of the organism to weightlessness, complicated dynamic docking and transfer operations, and emotional strain. The scaling of the first "summits" of space flight was safely accomplished by Lyakhov and Ryumin. The medics did not make a single alarming entry in their registers during the first week of their work in outer space. The doctors were particularly attentive to the commander of the ship, who is a thick-set man and who is on his first flight in outer space. There is no reason for alarm, however.

The station's reactivation is proceeding strictly to schedule. This time it was made somewhat longer. This is because the cosmonauts will have to check carefully the state of all the systems without exception, both governing the station's flight and keeping up normal living conditions within it. Such are the main concerns of the "boost week", as this period was figuratively called by Vladimir Kovalenko, who is among the cosmonauts that spent the longest period in outer space. He is now a consultant of the communication team keeping contact with the space crew. However, the worries of the first week were not limited merely to the station's reactivation. The orbit of the entire complex was lifted by means of the Soyuz-32 propelling unit, which has a sufficient fuel reserve left after the docking. The cosmonauts are unpacking the scientific luggage brought from the earth and have started biological experiments.

SCIENTISTS EXPECT TO DISCOVER OIL, GAS IN ANTARCTICA

LD050941 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 15 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Sergeyev report: "Oil in Antarctica?"]

[Text] Geologists established long ago that the depths of the sixth continent hold an abundance of minerals: iron ore, nonferrous metals, coal, and even gold and diamonds. But is there oil there? Scientists of the Institute of Arctic Physical and Technical Problems of the Yakutia branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences Siberian affiliate think that discoveries of oil and gas deposits can be expected in the Antarctic. Moreover, several features of the formation of the ice cover have enabled scientists to propose the most probable places for the fuel deposits. On what are these proposals based?

The Siberian scientists' research has shown that the process of formation and accumulation of hydrocarbons in the earth's core is greatly influenced by frozen rocks, surface ice cover and volcanic activity. This was the case in northern Eurasia. Why should these same factors not have contributed to the emergence of oil and gas on the sixth continent?

Indeed, a huge volcanic belt has been discovered in the Antarctic, and this means that carbonaceous rocks on the continent have been subjected to the prolonged influence of seismic processes. It has been shown that the chemical reactions involved in the formation of hydrocarbons is speeded up 100 times if heat and vibration act on them--in other words, the geothermal heat transmitted by volcanoes and earthquakes. And if we remember that millions of years ago Antarctica was a warm continent with luxuriant vegetation, then the favorable conditions for the formation and accumulation of hydrocarbons are obvious.

But that is not all. Calculations have shown that approximately 25 million years ago the South Pole became colder. Permafrost and then ice cover affected the continent. As the thickness of the Antarctic ice increased, the temperature gradually rose in the rocks beneath it: The ice was acting as a sort of fur coat. The frozen rocks thawed. Specialists' calculations show that it only takes a few hundred years for permafrost to disappear completely. Under the enormous ice pressure, the water in the rocks was gradually "squeezed out" to the edges of the continent. In doing so it washed out the rock, taking the hydrocarbons with it. Scientists therefore consider it preferable to search for oil in the shelf zone and on the shores of Antarctica....

Whether or not the Soviet specialists' suggestion proves correct, only time will tell.

BRIEFS

ATLANTIC WEATHER RESEARCH--The science vessel Akademik Kurchatov left Kaliningrad port today for the equatorial Atlantic. Together with it the new scientific research vessel Professor Shtokman left on its first expedition. Both ships will take part in the global international experiment to study the earth's weather. As we have already reported, this experiment's main aim is to explain the nature and laws governing the sharp changes in hot and cold weather, unusual snowfalls and frosts, and floods which are frequently observed in various areas of the globe. [Text]
[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Feb 79 LD]